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In Business Update

Cowbridge urged to join in with Unity on World Cancer Day

EVERYONE in Cowbridge is being asked to unite on World Cancer Day, Saturday February 4, to help beat cancer sooner.

Cancer Research UK is calling on men, women and children to play their part by wearing a Unity Band or donating money, to help fund life-saving research and help bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

The Unity bands are made of two parts, knotted together, to symbolise strength in unity and the power of what can be achieved when people join forces.

The bands come in three different colours and are available in all Cancer Research shops, including Cowbridge – which celebrates its first birthday on February 10 – for a suggested donation of £2, as well as online at *www.cruk.org.uk/worldcancerday*

This year, Cancer Research UK is working with nine other charities to encourage people to wear a Unity Band.

Ruth Amies, Cancer Research UK spokesperson for Wales, said: "Whatever your motivation – to remember a loved one, celebrate people who have overcome the disease, or to rally in support of those going through treatment – World Cancer Day is a chance to get involved and help more people survive this disease.

For more information, visit www.cruk.org/worldcancerday.

Go-ahead recommended – despite objections

D-Day for Bonvilston housing development

IT will be decision day today (Thursday) over plans to build 120 homes near Bonvilston.

The Vale Council planning committee will rule on the development, and a significant factor is that Vale Council officers have recommended that it should go ahead.

There have been a number of local objections, including one from Vale MP Alun Cairns, submitted before he became Secretary of State for Wales.

Bonvilston Vale Ltd and Village Homes, a subsidiary of Acorn Property Group, have lodged plans for land at Sycamore Cross in Bonvilston, next to the Cottrell Park golf course.

The proposals include the construction of 120 homes, together with new access, landscaping and improvement works to Pendoylan Lane.

A mix of five, four, three and two bedroom houses, plus one-bed flats, are included, while 24 properties are earmarked for affordable housing.

The site is currently used for equestrian activities and the existing stables would be demolished under the plans.

The land is allocated for housing in Vale Council's local development plan, currently at examination stage.

The applicants have said the scheme will provide "significant social, economic and environmental benefits" along with the new housing.

In October 2015, Alun Cairns MP wrote to object, saying that the development represented an "extreme increase" in the size of Bonvilston, which would lead to its character being changed "significantly and irreversibly".

He also expressed concerns over an increase in traffic and this was a point included in letters of objection from St Nicholas and Bonvilston Community Council, Pendoylan Community Council, Peterston Community Council, and St Georges and St Brides Community Council.

In total, 35 letters of objection were received.

A report prepared by council officers recommends approval, subject to the signing of a Section 106 order to the affordable housing provision, as well as a financial contribution including £1.2m towards Dwr Cymru Welsh Water's Bonvilston East waste water treatment works and £500,000 for education.

The report stated: "The proposed dwellings would be considered a sustainable form of development, contributing new housing (including much needed affordable housing) in a location immediately adjacent to existing residential development.

"Furthermore the site will deliver a strategic playing field facility plus off-site highway improvements."

School event marks Holocaust Memorial

STUDENTS at Cowbridge Comprehensive School organised a moving event to mark National Holocaust Memorial Day.

On Thursday, January 26, the students were joined by members of the community in reflecting on the Holocaust and genocides past.

Following this year's Holocaust Memorial Day theme, 'How can life go on?', pupils and teachers presented their personal perspectives to this question in a highly emotional and enlightening evening.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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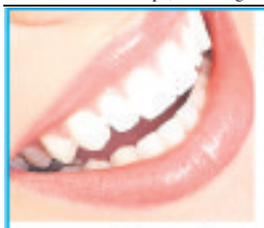

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Local hunt protestor is supported by millions'

I REFER to the two letters which you published recently from Sharon Richards, the sole protestor against the Cowbridge Hunt at Christmas.

I should not wish her to escape with the misconception that she is alone, for we are millions. Latest figures show that 80 per cent of the people are against the reintroduction of hunting with hounds and believe that it should be consigned permanently to the dustbin of history.

The law provides exceptionally for the dispatch of troublesome foxes, so there is little need to change it, perhaps only to strengthen it.

I have no objection to people chasing around in the countryside; in fact, there is something to recommend it. But please leave our wildlife out of it.

I note that this respectful and mild-mannered lady was reviled and abused in Cowbridge High Street, but she obviously knows herself that this is par for the course.

I salute this courageous lady and wish her well.

Alun Robson,
Llantwit Major.

'It was brave of Sharon to stand up to hunt supporters'

It was brave of Sharon to stand up to the morons who rip defenceless foxes up – 'The unspeakable in pursuit of the uneatable'.

I thought foxhunting was illegal? A poll proved 84 per cent public in favour of outlawing it.

Foxes kill to feed their young. I have yet to see foxhunters' kids eating foxes. Before anyone mentions chickens, I have 14 and have not lost one to a fox. My great-gran said that one way to keep foxes away from chickens, was to put human hair around the chicken coop, though it could be an old wives' tale...

Anyway, if Sharon wants me to join her in a peaceful protest, health permitting, I will.

Margaret Owen,
Brynna.

P.S. *Next time I see a hunt pass my house, I shall phone the police on 101 and report the law being broken.*

The law is for everyone, not the privileged few.

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'Presenteeism' is a simplistic way to judge the Vale's councillors

by DEPUTY LEADER OF THE VALE COUNCIL, LIS BURNETT

THE letters from Messrs Ludlow and Harkus (The GEM, 26 January) provide a welcome opportunity to again explain why I voted against the publication of attendance records for just a narrow selection of meetings, over and above the existing publicly available minutes kept for all council meetings.

Mr Harkus asks how else voters will judge councillors in the May elections. I would suggest that a simplistic 'presenteeism' or 'bums on seats' approach does not help people with that decision.

I don't think people are interested that I've only missed six meetings in the past four years, that I usually work well over 50 hours a week, or that I gave up a career as a university lecturer to commit myself full-time to a role I regard as a public service.

Neither do I think the majority of people are bothered that their local councillors attend a wide range of meetings outside the council, supporting local organisations, residents' groups or school governors.

Why should they be?

They might not care that the Vale of Glamorgan is the best performing council in Wales for the second year running, a top education authority, and has excellent reports from the Wales Audit Office and for Social Care or that savings of over £600k, saved by cutting the numbers of Cabinet Members in half means more money for frontline services.

However, I believe they do care that their children can go to school in modern facilities, and that there are leisure or play facilities available; that older residents are supported with dignity, that our towns and villages are thriving, our parks and beaches are award-winning, and that there are good quality affordable homes available. There are probably a whole raft of things local people care passionately about, but it's probably not whether their councillor misses a meeting because they are ill, or are at a meeting somewhere else.

People want to know their councillors will answer their call in an emergency or a query about why their rubbish hasn't been collected.

They need councillors who will work with them for months or years without giving up, to fight a damaging planning proposal, or find a solution to a problem.

In other words, people care about what the council and councillors do and what they achieve, rather than how many hours they spend in meetings.

I hope that in May, residents judge my council colleagues and me as we will judge ourselves... Not on how many meetings we have held, or reports we have considered.

But instead on the very real changes that we have made to public services in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Langlands Road flood defence works 'promoted'?

IN response to your article in The GEM's January 26 edition, regarding flood defence works at Langlands Road, I find it astounding to read that the Vale Council has been "promoting" the works and has been "in touch with local people".

I would like to point out that the first time I was aware of the pending closure was when a sign appeared at the roadside giving six days' notice of closure for 10 weeks.

In all fairness the road was open again after around 10 weeks, and there had been some pretty extensive works carried out.

Having said that, I was even more astounded at the second sign I saw at the roadside only a few weeks after the road had re-opened informing people that the road would be closing once again, with a timescale being given as 'Spring'!

We have never been formally advised of any road closures, although it was made clear to me when I questioned this, that a notice had been printed in a local paper back in April 2016; nor informed of why the road was being closed and dug up for a second time.

However, given all the disruption and the numerous times I have actually forgotten the road was closed, much to my own infuriation and amusement,

I would like to request that junction be closed for longer, as the silence of no traffic has been absolute bliss!

Ian and Sian Webster-Jenkins, Barry.

'Slow down'

I would like to bring your attention to issues the residents of Whitewell Road Barry have, following the building of 177 new houses on the White Farm estate.

The traffic has more than doubled along this once quiet road. The residents have to park on the pavement on both sides of this narrow road to avoid damage to their cars – but the main problem is the speed that cars exit the estate.

As they leave the estate, drivers can see vehicles on Colcot Road; if this is the case, they then race the length of Whitewell Road to avoid having to wait for on coming cars. This is dangerous and has led to pets being killed on Whitewell Road by speeding drivers. How long before a child is injured or even killed?

We have reported this situation to the police and the council and they are looking into it.

Paul Watkins, Barry
(*A partially sighted resident of Whitewell Road*),

Removing trees 'a wanton act'

SHAME on you, Barry Council, for the unnecessary destruction of a cluster of perfectly healthy mature conifer trees at the entrance of Barry cemetery, as they were in the way of the view of the chapel!

The idea is that once the gardens have been finished, the chapel will be more visible from outside the cemetery.

At a meeting on Cemetery Approach, I was informed by Coun Nic Hodges that these trees and some others would be removed, because, I quote: "They don't look very nice."

This amounts to wanton environmental damage, and the cost to remove them will inevitably end up on our council tax bills again.

To cut down healthy, mature trees simply to attain a certain visual aspect is a heinous act, and yet another impact on the already struggling wildlife, and the struggling people who foot the bill!

T Abery,
Barry.

Bowled over by a birthday surprise!

I SHOULD like to thank all the people, including Victoria Park Outdoor Bowls, Sully indoor Short-Green bowls – and most of all, my daughter Jane, Ken for his cooking skills, Alex – my lovely grandson – who was putting on a disco (supposedly); and, of course, Brin my husband, for making my birthday such a memorable occasion.

I thought Jane would do something, as she thought I was 80 in 2015 and let the cat out of the bag then! So I arranged to have my hair done on December 23, two days after the surprise.

At the Victoria Christmas lunch, I was so busy talking I didn't realise that the person Monica was talking about was me... That was the first surprise, and I thank you all from Cadoxton Bowls.

Then came the surprise party, and what a shock to see so many Short-Green girls, to say I was overwhelmed is putting it mildly! I didn't realise so many people knew I existed.

Once again, thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Marion Clissett,
Barry.

EQUITY ADVICE

DO you own your own home? Are you interested in finding out about Equity Release on your home and want impartial advice?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a information session on Tuesday, February 8 from 10am to 12 noon at the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry. No appointment is needed. Call 01446 732385 for further information.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL FEBRUARY 9)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
02 Thur	09.57	9.5	22.16	9.3
03 Fri	10.41	8.9	23.07	8.6
04 Sat	11.31	8.4	23.59	8.3
05 Sun			12.41	8.3
06 Mon	01.18	8.1	14.03	8.2
07 Tues	02.42	8.2	15.23	8.4
08 Wed	03.57	8.6	16.31	8.8
09 Thur	05.15	8.8	17.42	8.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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COWBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Planning in Cowbridge

The role of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council's Planning Committee

MANY residents will be aware of a number of proposals for major developments in the Cowbridge area.

Foremost is the proposal to build 475 homes on land at Darren Farm (see The GEM, January 26), but there are also plans for the St Athan Road and Brookfield Park area and a plan to build retirement homes off Westgate.

All of these come under the scrutiny of the Town Council's Planning Committee, but they only have very limited powers, even when proposed developments have a major effect on the area.

The council wishes to engage more closely with residents to present a united front against damaging developments. Part of the council's remit is to act in the interests of the residents, and to preserve the essential nature of Cowbridge.

The council has no objection to developments, but they need to be relevant and proportionate. For example, the council actively supports the cattle market redevelopment as this provides accommodation, business starter units and parking, while retaining the cattle market.

One of the main issues for all developments is the lack of supporting infrastructure. Schools are full, as are the medical surgeries; parking is bordering on the impossible and the roads are jammed in the morning and evening rush hours.

A major concern is the increased risk of flooding as all of these developments will displace rainwater which will enter the Thaw below the existing flood prevention scheme and potentially cause flooding in Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

Current planning applications are posted on the Town Hall notice board or are available on the Vale Council website *www.vogonline.planning-register.co.uk* and all residents have the ability to view these and object as necessary.

David B Morris,
Town Clerk.

'Council concerned over business rates'

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council has listened to and read the concerns of the local Cowbridge traders in regard to the proposed increase in business (non-domestic) rates as a result of the rates revaluation.

The Town Council supports the concerns of the traders that the proposed increases in the non-domestic rates will have an adverse impact on small businesses and as a consequence blight the retail community within Cowbridge.

The Town Council is highly supportive of the protests from the Chamber of Trade and those individuals who are seeking to encourage the Welsh Government to increase its small business rates relief, and is pleased at the recent announcement by the Welsh Government to provide an extra £10m to support 'high street shops and pubs' in Wales.

However, this financial support does not stretch to public buildings such as the Town Hall. Although the Town Hall is a not a business premise but a Grade 2 listed public building with great local historical significance, it too is still subject to non-domestic rates as if it were a 'profit earning' business.

Consequently, the revaluation of the business rates payable in 2017 for the Town Hall has seen a proposed increase of 33.25 per cent, a payment of £15,219 next financial year. This calls into question the continued viability of the Town Hall as a community asset, especially with increasing costs to maintain the building not just for Town Council use but also to house the Cowbridge and District Museum and to provide local community facilities.

The Town Council is very much aware of the increasing costs for public services being placed upon local communities and does its utmost to ensure that any rise in the local precept is minimised.

However, to try and offset maintenance and utility costs as well as pay the business rates, the Town Council has to hire out the use of the Town Hall, but in doing so has to keep its charges affordable to attract hirers.

The income generated from hiring out the Town Hall does not fully meet the costs of maintaining and running the building, let alone pay the proposed increase in the business rates.

This will mean that the Town Council will unfortunately have to consider an increase in the local precept for the 2017/18 financial year, in order to ensure that the Town Hall continues to be a building for community use and a public asset to Cowbridge.

In addition, it has to continue to maintain and improve upon the facilities provided at Twt Park, Llanblethian playing fields, Limes cemetery, Southgate Park, 'Emms Cottage' gardens, Factory Road ford gardens and the grounds of Holy Cross Church.

David B Morris,
Town Clerk.

Posh Pawz would like to introduce Maddie Davies

MADDIE has been working with Kath and Jo of Posh Pawz, Rhoose, for almost a year bathing and drying, and is now taking appointments.

She has recently completed her grooming course at Pencoed College and the salon are very happy that she will be developing her skills further with them.

Training grooms will be available from February 1 – 20 per cent off first appointment – and if you book and attend a second appointment with Maddie, there is a 15 per cent discount. Full groom prices thereafter; only open at the moment to certain breeds. This offer is available to new, existing and returning clients.

Rest assured that all grooms will be closely supervised, so the high standards of the salon are maintained. Book your slot now on 01446 710044.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Saron Chapel

THE next service at Saron Chapel, Treoes will take place on Sunday, February 5 at 3pm; the officiating cleric will be Rev Alwyn Evans.

Everyone is assured of a warm welcome.

Get well!

BEST wishes for a speedy return to good health go to Young At Heart Club stalwart Jean Thomas, who is recuperating at her Treoes home, following her stay at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Scouts' thank you

THE 1st Llantwit Scout group want to say a big 'thank you' to all the kind donations given to them by members of the public for their upcoming table top sale.

The table top sale is being held on February 11 at 11am in the Llantonian Hall.

For more information contact Amanda on 07974 397056.

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Special birthday cake brings back memories for Alf

THE years came flooding back when a Llantwit Major pensioner had a surprise gift from a company he last worked for 50 years ago!

Llantwit Major WW2 veteran Alfred Jackson celebrated his 96th birthday recently, and a party for family and friends took place on the Sunday before the big day.

However, a big surprise was waiting for him on his actual birthday, when there was another anniversary to celebrate.

The South Wales Area operations manager of British Oxygen, for whom Alf worked in the 1950s and 1960s, made a special trip to Llantwit Major and caught Alf by surprise when he knocked on the door, carrying the biggest imaginable birthday cake – in the shape of a three-ton lorry.

It was exactly 50 years since Alf stopped working for BOC, where he was a long-distance lorry driver.

Alf's daughter, Ellie Townsend Jones, had contacted the British Oxygen press office in London and told them about her dad's memories.

They decided to visit Alf and present him with a birthday cake, to mark his many years of good service for them in his youth.

Alf's career as a BOC lorry driver had begun at the age of about 30, by which time he already had 15 years of experience behind the wheel.

Before the war, as a teenager, Alf had worked in his father's mobile grocery business and learned to drive a 1929 Morris van to deliver groceries.

His ability with a large vehicle landed him the rank of driver when he was called up in 1941, and he spent four years driving trucks as one of Field Marshal Montgomery's "desert rats", supplying water and munitions up and down the line, in North Africa and Italy.

After being "demobbed", he came home to the family business, but with many household goods and foods still subject to rationing, and with the arrival of small Co-op-type shops, the business became unprofitable and closed in 1951.

He set off along the Great West Road, calling in at every firm to see if work was available – and landed a job as a driver at the BOC Brentford depot.

Looking at his small stature of 5ft 5 inches, the hiring foreman doubted that he would be capable of doing the work, but asked him to do a trial drive of a lorry in the yard. Alf had no difficulty in carrying out some impressive manoeuvres and was promptly taken on.

It took months of training, working alongside another driver, to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to do the job. Deliveries of medical oxygen cylinders of varying sizes were made all around London and to destinations as far as the south coast and Birmingham.

Alf Jackson with Adrian Harman, the BOC area manager.

The M1 motorway did not open until 1959. Each morning, drivers would be given their calls and would plan their own routes.

Because the oxygen was vital to each customer, there was never any question of failing to deliver a load, however many hours you had to work in a day to achieve this.

Alf remembers that during London's Great Smog of December 1952, drivers were sent out in twos, as often visibility was reduced to about three feet.

He remembers going on a delivery to a central London hospital near Waterloo. A driver who lived near Waterloo came with him. After making their delivery, the other driver walked in front of the lorry to guide him to a lorry park that he knew.

The vehicle was parked up overnight and Alf went back home on the Tube.

All cylinders were handled manually as there were no lifting devices. The largest cylinders were up to five feet high and about 10 inches wide (250mm), and were far too heavy to carry.

Drivers were taught how to manipulate and manoeuvre them, which was a skill acquired after much training, and some trial and error. The uniform consisted of a maroon-coloured coat and trousers, and a smart, peaked cap. The equipment issued was a pair of tough gloves and an apron.

The Area Manager, Mr Adrian Hayman, is based at BOC Margam and had travelled from his home across the Severn Bridge for the surprise visit to meet Alf.

He said: "It was fascinating to talk to Alf about what it was like to work as a BOC driver before the days of motorways or tail-lift lorries!"

The cake was polished off the following day at the weekly meeting of the Llantwit Major Pensioners' Club, of which Alf is a long-term member.

Will Durrant, assistant head boy at Cowbridge Comprehensive, visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, as part of the Holocaust Education Trust's schools' programme, and took this photograph there.

School's moving event marks National Holocaust Memorial Day

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The school's assistant head boy and Holocaust Memorial Day Trust Youth Champion, Will Durrant, told The GEM: "It is of vital importance to reflect on the Holocaust, as its legacy continues in today's society – in Europe and in Cowbridge.

"From films like *Schindler's List*, to the poetry of Leonard Cohen, to the fact that the places in which millions upon millions of humans were killed are still standing, there is a constant warning to every community, including ours, that racially-driven politics is deadly and dangerous.

"But in Cowbridge, Holocaust Memorial Day extended beyond this bleak reminder.

"Our community has celebrated the simple fact that life will go on, which is demonstrated by survivor testimonies and the rights that we enjoy today.

Rhiannon Bailey speaking at the Cowbridge event.

"As well as furthering Holocaust and Rights education, the speakers presented their reflections on Auschwitz and the theme 'How can life go on?'

"We concluded that, for some survivors, life continues with both guilt and responsibility; in the words of Witness Wells in Session 23 of the Eichmann Trial, 'We have a responsibility, somehow, to withstand persecution and to be alive'. This is a message to us all that life can go on if we overcome oppressive politics and exercise our human rights as part of these events.

"More importantly, however, we realised that it is always possible for life to go on, and that maybe, as a community, we will excel with love.

"Finally, we would like to extend a huge thanks and congratulations to everyone who took part in the organisation of the event, including Cerys Baker, Dan Taylor, the History Department of Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Lowri Morgan, Genevieve Kirk, Harriet Utley and Rhiannon Bailey.

"We would also like to thank Jane Hutt AM for her support and attendance at the event, and the community, who donated £85.35 to the Welsh Refugee Council."

COWBRIDGE FRIENDSHIP CLUB NEWS

AT the first meeting of 2017 Cowbridge Friendship Club, it was nice to welcome one new member, who we hope will continue to come to our meetings.

Other members brought along photographs of themselves either as babies or young girls and in a lot of instances, it was 'a case of mistaken identity'. Even the volunteers took part and found they were struggling, but one member did manage to correctly guess eight of the photographs.

Perhaps they had a keener eye, or was it the fact that they kept staring at the members' noses, eyes and ears – but everyone still enjoyed the afternoon!

We then welcomed Phyllis Price, who presented a cheque to Olive Rawson on behalf of the ladies' section of the Cowbridge Bowling Club, which was very much appreciated and will be put to good use for the club members.

Phyllis then joined in with the members for afternoon tea with the usual homemade cakes and sandwiches.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 23, when members will be given a talk by John Winton.

We always have a variety of activities at our meetings – so if you, or anyone you know, would like to join our Friendship Club (transport is provided) call 01656 668446.

PAT SMITH (leader)

WI members learn all about living with CF

BONT FAEN WI's year started with our annual meal in the Bear Hotel, where The St Quentin's Suite was beautifully decorated and a lovely sight as we entered the room.

Our thanks go to Sue and Jane for organising the event and looking after the seating arrangements, which worked really well. Thanks also to Jean and Margaret for being the Secret Santa shoppers. There was lots of variety in the selections.

Our monthly meeting was presided over by Jane Crowe and she welcomed everyone back for the New Year, including three visitors.

Jane introduced Diana Bluck, who gave us a talk on Cystic Fibrosis, a subject she has first hand knowledge of, as her son has CF.

Over the years, she has had to deal with its development and its treatment. Her son has physio twice a day, and any minor coughs and colds usually means a trip to hospital.

The research into CF means that people are living longer with the condition. The down side is that Llandough only has nine beds, so even urgent cases don't get admitted straight away.

The social meeting is on Saturday (February 4), when members will be visiting the Royal Mint.

Next month, our speaker will be talking about the African Mercy Ships.

MP

glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A happy (*Chinese*) new year to all!

Yanning Francis from Rogers Chinese, pictured with Mrs Watt and pupils from Y Bont Faen Primary.

It was 'happy new year' – Chinese style, last week at a local school.

Nursery pupils at Y Bont Faen Primary have been celebrating Chinese New Year in style through the flavours, customs, colours, language and lion dance of China.

Hand print roosters, tissue paper blossom sticks and Chinese New Year writing mats have been made, while Chinese noodles, rice, crackers and spring rolls have been tasted.

The pupils have even been answering "Ni hao" (Hello) for their register call !

Y Bont Faen Primary wish to thank Yanning Francis, the owner at Rogers Chinese in Cowbridge for their very generous and delicious donation of Chinese food and fortune cookies. **SC**

Glamorgan Young Farmers get set to tread the boards!

GLAMORGAN Federation of Young Farmers' Club members are set to raise the curtain on seven show-stopping performances in their annual stage competition.

Taking place at the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on February 3 and 4, it will be packed with singing, dancing, humour and more, they promise.

Members from the seven Glamorgan clubs, aged between 10 and 26, will go head to head, showcasing their talents for a chance to lift the silverware at the end of the two-evening spectacular. The winning cast will go forward to represent Glamorgan in the Wales YFC finals at the Princess Royal Theatre in March.

Neath YFC will open the competition at 7pm on the Friday evening followed with performances by Gower, Llantrisant and Bridgend. The second and final evening will start at the slightly later time of 7.30pm with Gelligaer taking to the stage, followed by Wick and Maendy along with the final adjudication and the highly anticipated results.

Glamorgan YFC County Chairman, Miss Laura Elliott, said: "This competition is one of the pinnacle dates in our calendar; the standard is always very high in Glamorgan and the audience can expect to be thoroughly entertained.

"As always, it is with thanks to all of our sponsors that the show can go on, in particular JG Plant Ltd and NFU Mutual Glamorgan which are this year's main sponsors of this event."

For more information contact county organiser, Gwyneth Thomas, on 07779 331839 or by email glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk. You can also follow updates on our Facebook page (/GlamorganYFC) and Twitter (@GlamorganYFC).

Bruce is backing Welsh rugby XV!

THE Six Nations kicks off this weekend, and rescue dog Bruce, the pet of local photographer Susan Dobbs, has no doubt about which team he will be supporting!

Breakfast cheque for charity

GLAMORGAN farmers enjoyed a successful breakfast morning, promoting Welsh farmhouse produce and farming matters.

Filling the air with mouth-watering smells, the Glamorgan branch of the FUW joined in the Wales-wide FUW campaign, which aimed to raise the profile of Welsh produce and get politicians, key stakeholders and the public, to understand the important role the food and drink sector plays in their everyday lives.

The first ever event of its kind was held at Lesser Hall, Cowbridge and was attended by many members, as well as AMs Jane Hutt and Andrew RT Davies.

FUW Glamorgan county executive officer Rachel Saunders said: "We had a really successful breakfast morning and I would like to thank everyone who attended for their support and helping us to showcase why farming matters.

"This was our first ever breakfast event and not only did we enjoy some of the wonderful food our farmers produce, we also raised a total of £425 for BHF Cymru, our president's charity."

A special thank you was extended to Ty Tanglwyst Dairy and Brynchwith Farm, as well as J G Plant Ltd, HFS Agriculture Ltd, Riverside Hardware and Engineers Supplies, Arthur John & Co, Riverlea Ltd, Pencoed Tyres and S&T Tyre Services for their sponsorship of the event.

Blacksmiths quiz team provide boost for Sunshine Club's trip to Folly Farm

The photograph shows Kay receiving the cheque from Sian Ward, Jeanette Phipps and Mary Cooper. IMAGE by KIMBERLEY EVANS

CHRISTMAS came early for 'The Sunshine Club Special Needs Support Group' when the Wednesday evening quiz team from the Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes, visited the group.

The club meets in The Western Vale integrated Children's Centre, Llantwit Major, and was presented with a cheque for £410 towards its planned visit to Folly Farm in the summer.

Kay Griffiths spoke on behalf of the parents saying that such generosity was very much appreciated.

She said that after being treated to a very successful summer outing in June 2016 by the Llantwit and Cowbridge Lions it had given the group the incentive to work hard and save for another outing this year.

Kay said: "These very kind ladies and their quiz team had heard of The Sunshine Club and wasted no time in putting their 'brains together' and coming up with an amazing result.

"We cannot thank them enough the children and parents are already very excited."

Bont Faen WI annual dinner

THE year started at Bont Faen WI with our annual dinner at the Bear Hotel, in Cowbridge.

The St Quentin's Suite was beautifully decorated and was a wonderful sight as we entered. Our thanks go to Jane and Sue for organising the event and the seating plan, which everyone agreed was a great success.

Thanks also to Jean and Margaret for being the shoppers for Secret Santa. The gifts were varied and, in some cases, original.

Jane Crowe presided over our monthly meeting, wishing us a happy New Year and welcoming three visitors. She reminded everyone that subscriptions were due.

Our speaker was Diana Bluck who talked about cystic fibrosis. Her son was born with the condition, so Diana had first hand knowledge of treatment and the development of CF. Her son has physio twice a day and when he catches any minor coughs or colds it usually means a hospital visit.

The research into CF means that people are living longer with the condition. The downside is that Llandough Hospital has only nine CF beds, so sometimes even urgent cases cannot gain admission.

Our social event is a trip to the Royal Mint on Saturday, February 4, and next month's speaker is a representative of Mercy Ships. **MP**

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Wick pupils put 'probing questions' to local MP

Mr Cairns with years 5 and 6 at Wick Primary School.

VALE MP Alun Cairns visited Wick Primary last week to talk about the Welsh Assembly and Parliament and explain how they work.

When the time came for the tables to be turned and the children had the chance to ask questions Mr Cairns came in for an unexpected grilling. Instead of being asked simple questions about the democratic institutions, he faced questions on the UK's relationship with the US under Donald Trump and about the European Union.

One pupil asked why the UK couldn't retain full single market access through membership of EFTA, citing the Norway model.

Mr Cairns said he had done his best to answer the years-5 and 6 pupils and expressed delight at the probing quality of their questions.

'Make playgrounds suitable for disabled youngsters, too' – call

'PLAY equipment suitable for disabled children should be incorporated in a new play area planned for the Vale' – that call has come from parents and has been supported by Plaid Cymru.

Lewis Greenaway, Plaid spokesperson, said: "It is good to see plans being made to provide new equipment and upgrade old and dated play facilities.

"Play area sites include Paget Road, Cogan, Plassey Square and at the Dingle. The cash for these schemes comes from developers of land in the town.

"However, it is important that all children are adequately catered for when the play areas are designed, including disabled children and wheelchair users.

"Plaid is aware that the site at Plassey Square is fully designed. However, we understand that the three other parks are not at that stage. It would be good to have some clarification about the situation."

David Wilton, fellow Plaid member, said: "It would be wrong not to take every opportunity to include children who find usual play equipment inaccessible."

Plaid said it welcomed the improvements to parks in Penarth.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

pa black EXPANDS LETTINGS SERVICE IN COWBRIDGE

THE award-winning estate agent, pa black, is opening a dedicated lettings service at their local branch in Cowbridge.

pa black, the distinctive homes service from Peter Alan, opened in Cowbridge over a year ago as a sales-only branch.

As a group, Peter Alan lettings division currently manages over 2,800 properties across 27 branches, and is continuing to expand year on year.

Angela Davy, head of lettings at Peter Alan, said: "We constantly review our proposition based on customer feedback, and it has become apparent there is a need for a pa black letting service, especially in areas such as Cowbridge.

"pa black landlords will benefit from the same quality and personal service that our vendors currently receive.

"All lettings properties are advertised on both the pa black and Peter Alan websites, in the branch on High Street, Cowbridge and on the two biggest property portals – Rightmove and Zoopla."

Michelle Thomas has been appointed as the lettings manager at the Cowbridge branch, after successfully working in the lettings market for the last eight years.

Having worked for several agents in the area, Michelle has a wealth of experience and knowledge of Bridgend, the Vale, and surrounding areas.

Michelle commented: "I am really excited by the opportunity to grow our lettings provision in Cowbridge.

"I firmly believe that a proactive approach, alongside a strong emphasis on excellent customer service, will make pa black a unique option for landlords who wish to let their property.

"I look forward to welcoming the landlords and tenants of Cowbridge to pa black lettings."

If you would like to speak to Michelle about the pa black lettings services, call 01446 772857, or email cowbridgelettings@pablack.co.uk.

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The Iron Horses go on a run ... *at their own pace!*

THE Glamorgan Iron Horse Vintage Society's January charity tractor run, in aid of Wales Air Ambulance, took place on Sunday, January 22.

It was a rather cold, overcast morning at Cwm Risca Farm, the starting point for the annual run. A total of 45 tractors and a couple of 4 x 4s signed in at 10am: tea, coffee, Welsh cakes and biscuits were the order of the day!

The pre-planned route, from Cwm Risca Farm over Mynydd Baeden, was to be enjoyed before re-joining the tarmac north of Kenfig Hill. Then it was on to Pyle and down to a planned stop at Porthcawl.

Refuelling took place at 'Mansel's' (much appreciated) and then it was on to Brackla in Bridgend for dinner – a round trip of about 22 miles.

Chairman Richard Rees reported: "As always, a very enjoyable run, although I must apologise for the late arrival at Salt Lake – these old tractors do play up from time to time!"

He went on: "A big thank you to the Anthony family, Cwm Risca Farm, the Evans family, Coney Beach and Mansel for the teas and coffees.

"The run generated £800 for the Wales Air Ambulance. Most of all, a big thank you to the drivers and the public who turned out to see us."

DJ KING

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillors' surgery

Llantwit First Independents will hold a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major this Saturday (February 4) from 9.30am until 11.30am. Residents who have any issues to raise are welcome to attend.

TOP's TaxHelp

TOP professional tax advice will be offered FREE to older people on a restricted income at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major (CF61 1RB) on Monday, February 6 from 10am to midday.

No appointment necessary; to access TOP's helpline, call 0845 601 3321 or 01308 488066. Home visits can be arranged for those unable to attend the surgery.

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Briefing the candidates for council

THE Vale Council's returning officer, Debbie Marles, is set to welcome all councillors and potential councillors, to a series of candidates' and agents' briefing sessions for the local government elections in May 2017.

The sessions will be hosted by the returning officer who will make a presentation that covers the election timetable and processes, nominations, electoral registration and absent voting arrangements.

All sessions are open to current councillors and potential candidates, and provide an opportunity for those wishing to ask various questions relating to the poll.

They will be held in the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU on the following dates:

Tuesday, February 21 from 9.30am – 11.30am (Committee Room 2).

Thursday, February 23 from 2pm – 4pm (Committee Room 2).

Thursday, February 23 from 6.30pm – 8.30pm (Committee Room 1).

For information regarding the sessions, and for links to guidance on nomination forms, visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/council/Elections/Candidates-Agents-Information-Local-Government-Elections-2017.aspx.

For those beginning to think about serving their communities as a councillor, information on eligibility and support can be found at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/council/councillors/becoming-a-councillor.aspx.

Community's moving response to Holocaust Memorial Day

THERE were a number of important events last week in my Assembly diary which made an impact on me and all those involved.

On Thursday, February 26, I joined a cross-party event hosted by Julie Morgan AM on the Senedd steps to specifically remember the gypsies and travellers who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

There were poems by young people from the gypsy and traveller community in Wales and I stood with Barry resident and community champion, Christine Lee, from the Romani Cultural and Arts Company, who delivered a moving reading called 'Hope'.

During the week, we were also able to sign the Holocaust Educational Trust Memorial Book and help decorate a sculpture with our messages of commemoration to mark the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp.

Joining a Reflection Evening at Cowbridge Comprehensive School led by school students with their poems, music and statements was also very moving. Their strong message was that we must think what this means for us here and now as the theme for this year is 'How Can Life Go On?' The evening concluded with a collection for the Welsh Refugee Council, which brought this message home very clearly.

The First Minister also reflected on our responsibilities in his statement at the weekend, when he spoke of our "solemn duty of helping and protecting refugees."

I encourage people to visit the Holocaust Memorial Day exhibition in Art Central at the central library in Barry, which reflects on the past 10 years of exhibitions.

It has been organised by the Vale Council, with a series of statements from across the world. This exhibition is on until February 25.

WOODY'S LODGE

I also hosted the launch of 'Woody's Lodge' in the Senedd. This project has been led by volunteers and veterans who want to open up a community space at the RNR *HMS Cambria* in Barry. This unique venture has attracted support from 22 support agencies across the Vale and further afield.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by VALE AM JANE HUTT (Leader of the House)

In his explanation of the new venture, Dr David Trotman said this would provide, among many other functions, a "large social room and grounds where veterans, free of charge, can interact, pull up a sandbag and have a brew and join in social activities." Over 2,500 hours of volunteer time have been put into this important new initiative already.

DEBRILLATOR

I was also delighted to help launch the Dinas Powys Women's Institute public access defibrillator service for the community of Dinas Powys.

This took place on Friday, January 27 and started with the unveiling of a public access defibrillator outside Peter Mulcahy Estate Agency on Cardiff Road, followed by a second unveiling of a defibrillator on Station Road outside Potter & Co by The Star Inn.

I thanked Dinas Powys WI for having the idea, raising the funds and securing the support from a range of partners including British Heart Foundation, Dinas Powys Rotary Club, Dinas Powys Community Council and the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Early defibrillation is immensely important in the current campaigns of the British Heart Foundation and Welsh Ambulance Service, who provide the training and support for this public access provision backed by the Welsh Government.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in such a range of meaningful activities as part of a busy Assembly week.

COWBRIDGE U3A MEETING

THE next Cowbridge U3A monthly meeting will be a talk by Polly and Ken Davies entitled 'The Construction of the Hoover Dam', at 2pm on February 8 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors are welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments).

See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Wales a 'global trading nation'

WALES is looking to rediscover its role as a "global trading nation", Welsh Secretary Alun Cairns has said.

The Vale of Glamorgan MP was being questioned in the Commons on the likely impact on Welsh jobs of the UK's exit from the European Union and the single market.

Mr Cairns told MPs: "Since the vote to leave the EU, we have seen employment hit record highs, and there are now 4,000 fewer people unemployed than six months ago.

"Trade with the EU is important to Wales, but it is clear that we need to increase our trade with the fastest-growing markets across the world.

"It is time for Wales, like Britain, to rediscover its role as a great global trading nation."

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New course takes Wales and Welsh to the wide world

THE Open University has launched an online course which will give learners an insight into Welsh history and culture and help them to learn basic Welsh language skills.

'Discovering Wales and Welsh' was launched last week at the Senedd by the Assembly's presiding officer, Elin Jones AM, and director of The Open University (OU) in Wales, Rob Humphreys.

The course can be studied flexibly with students able to register at any time. It offers the chance to explore key aspects of Welsh culture and takes learners through basic Welsh language skills.

It is designed in particular for people who live outside Wales or who may have come to live in Wales. The global reach of the OU means that the course can be followed anywhere in the world with access the internet.

For more information, visit www.open.ac.uk/courses/short-courses/lg001.

Students get bilingually creative

Actors Rhys ap William and Rhydian Bowen-Phillips holding a bilingual workshop for performing arts students.

PERFORMING arts students from Cardiff and Vale College have had an insight into the benefits of speaking Welsh in the creative industries with a visit from actors Rhys ap William and Rhydian Bowen-Phillips.

Rhys ap William has worked in theatre and has an extensive portfolio of voiceover and TV work, including the recent National Theatre of Wales show 'Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage' about the life of Gareth 'Alfie' Thomas. He also acts in S4C's *Byw Celwydd*, scenes of which are filmed at the college's city centre campus.

Rhydian Bowen-Phillips is a voiceover artist, actor and presenter who currently performs voiceover work for Sky and presents a programme on 'Made in Cardiff' about Cardiff City Football Club.

Rhys and Rhydian came to the college's 'Theatr Michael Sheen' at its city centre campus to see the performing arts students as part of the college's enrichment programme, with the support of the Welsh language team.

CAVC's B#Epic enrichment programme aims to give students additional employability and entrepreneurial skills by introducing them to the world of work.

The two actors talked about their training, being self-employed and dealing with agents, and gave an overview of their careers.

The learners then split into two groups – one worked with Rhys on a monologue from 'Crouch, Touch, Pause, Engage 'and the other with Rhydian on a voiceover he did from the recent Roald Dahl celebrations.

The workshop closed with a Q&A session which gave students an opportunity to ask for advice and pick up tips about the industry.

"Doing workshops can sometimes be testing but at CAVC it was an absolute pleasure," Rhys said afterwards.

"What a great building and what a great little theatre – the only thing to top that was the great students and staff."

Rhydian added: "It's always nice to be asked to take part in things like this, but it's even nicer when the students are so appreciative and willing to take things on board."

The students also found it a positive experience. "It was an eye-opening experience which really helped me develop my acting skills," said 18-year-old Jac Elias-Williams from Penarth.

GEM readers highlight road safety concerns

GEM readers were keen to express their views on road safety issues following an article we ran last week.

Loretta Webber highlighted a junction with Barry Road, and argued for a 20mph speed limit locally.

"I would like to highlight the difficulty on the junction of Orchard Drive leading onto Barry Road.

"There are double yellow lines on both sides of the junction on the main Barry Road but these do not extend around the corners into Orchard Drive.

"There is a bus stop on the right corner with a very large tree which restricts the view.

"Cars and vans are parked on both sides of Barry Road (on the yellow lines) and the entrance to Orchard Drive.

"On most occasions you have to pull right out onto the main road (Barry Road) to check for traffic both ways especially coming up Crogan Hill.

"This is very dangerous. As much as we love trees I think removing the tree would enable better vision along with enforcing the law about parking on double yellow lines.

"I am also in favour of a speed limit of say 20 miles per hour around town."

Rory Newman was keen to point out a cause for concern in Sully.

"I realised there is a lane on the left hand side as you go up Arlington Road, Sully.

"There is no pedestrian barrier to stop children running or cycling straight onto the road and no double yellow lines which are very much needed as several vans park across the lane obscuring a motorist's view.

"The vans also create a hazard for anyone turning out of the Brean Close junction as they are often faced with on-coming traffic on their side of the road."

Alun Cairns MP

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A chilly day, but warm friendship for the Valeways walkers

IT was a cold morning as 13 walkers joined John at the Merrie Harrier for this Valeways walk.

They set off and passed behind the Baptist chapel and over fields to reach Pen y Turnpike Road. As they went, they were greeted by several horses that seemed to want to join the walk.

Crossing the road, they headed towards Michaelston le Pit and soon turned into Case Hill woods. The woods were showing signs of spring with the bluebells beginning to come up.

They crossed the Cadoxton river and walked into Cwm George. On this popular route they passed several other walkers and dogs, finally arriving at the road in Michaelston. The bridge over the river at this point provided good seating for a coffee stop.

Suitably refreshed, the group carried on up the river valley passing the salmon ponds to join a track close to Wrinstone Farm. They walked past Beauville to reach 'One O'Clock Gate'.

(If you want to know why it is so called, go to dpgc.co.uk/about/history/.)

Ignoring the path over the golf course, the group turned into Coed Clwyd Gwyn to rejoin the path through Cwm George. Turning right and after about 250 yards they left the valley to cross fields and the river again to join the path through Case Hill.

From here, they retraced their steps to the pub for welcome food and drink. Many thanks to the Merrie Harrier for hospitality and the use of the car park.

JOHN TREBY
Valeways walk leader

Best foot forwards! The Valeways Walker tootle off.

Smear test warning

CALLS from Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust to increase cervical screening uptake rates in the Vale have been backed by South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies.

Cervical screening uptake is declining, and more than one in five eligible women in Wales did not attend one last year. At the same time, more women were diagnosed with cervical cancer than before.

Around 5 million women across the UK are invited to attend each year, with women aged 25-49 invited every three years and women aged 50-64 every five years.

The screening can detect any abnormalities, with women able to receive treatment before cancer develops.

Mr Davies said: "It is of deep concern that one in five eligible women in Wales did not attend a cervical screening in Wales last year – especially since cervical cancer is the most common cancer in women under 35 and is on the rise in women over 50.

"I'd therefore urge all eligible Vale residents to attend their cervical screening, and I am pleased to support the #SmearForSmear campaign to increase awareness."

Robert Music, of Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust, said: "We have one of the best cervical cancer screening programmes in the world which saves approximately 5,000 lives a year across the UK.

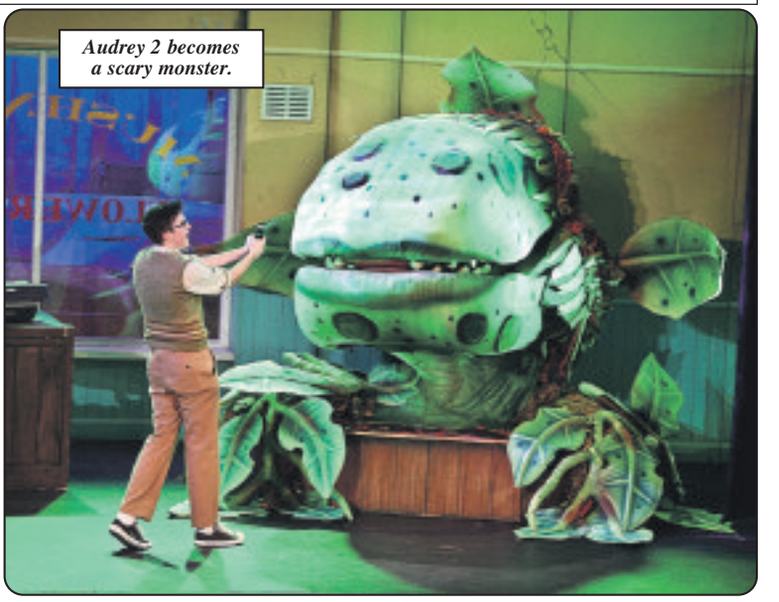
"However, the number of women attending their screening is falling.

"If we do not increase investment in prevention we will be faced with more women facing the physical and psychological cost of cervical cancer, increasing the burden on the NHS and state, and more lives lost."

PORTHCAWL SCHOOL'S LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS IS A TRIUMPH!

ABOVE: Anna Arrieta with the six 'Ronnettes', Elin Morris, Maddie Dawson; Lauren Ellis-Stretch; Blythe Hughes-Davies; Keeley Fry; Megan Morris.

ABOVE: The plant's fame brings a string of business offers for Seymour.



Audrey 2 becomes a scary monster.

Images by MALCOLM NUGENT
Review by PHILIP IRWIN *(See page 28 for more photos).*

PORTHCAWL Comprehensive recently finished a four-day run at the Grand Pavilion, offering a sparkling and spectacular version of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

Social media has been full of praise for the talented pupils but, with so many of last year's *We Will Rock You* cast available again, that was no surprise really.

However, on top of that talent, there was team work, professionalism and attention to detail as well – and it's probably best to start with the two leads, James Evans-Jones as Seymour, and Molly Brace as Audrey.

Two comedy characters, of course. Seymour is a shy, nervous nerd, and Audrey has a squeaky voice and a similar lack of self esteem. Getting the voices right in the dialogue is tricky, but actually singing in those voices must be a nightmare, and I was so impressed by how they stayed in character.

Anyone who saw James as Tony in last year's *West Side Story* by the Bridgend Youth Thatre (BYT) knows what a terrific 'leading man' voice he has, but for Seymour he has to keep it under wraps.

It was the same for Molly. Ellen Green originated the role on stage and in the 1986 film, and her performance was so definitive that anyone taking the role has no choice but to 'do an Ellen'.

Molly tottered around the stage on her high heels, getting all the laughs that were in the script, and catching the sadness in the character too.

Her singing was great too, staying totally in character. In fact, on the night I saw the show, she beat James in this, as every once in a while, his 'Tony' voice slipped in before Seymour took control again!

Of course, one performer was able to use her own voice – and what a voice it is! In the movie, the voice of Audrey 2, the man-eating plant, was supplied by the great Levi Stubbs, the lead singer of the Four Tops.

It was an inspired choice, then, to cast Anna Arrieta as the voice of Audrey 2. Well, either inspired or a no-brainer.

What was inspired was the decision to bring her on stage as a femme fatale figure – making it clear to poor Seymour that he had no choice but to give in to her.

Anna has by-passed the musical theatre or classical singing route. She loves rhythm and blues, jazz, rock and the like, and she gets better and better. She was great in *We Will Rock You* last year as Scaramouche, and she has moved on since.

The show surprised me because it was so different from the film. I hadn't appreciated how many songs were cut from the movie, and it had a much darker ending.

However, going back to the original show meant that other cast members had a chance to shine. Mitchell Davies played Mr Mushnik, and he and Seymour made the most of 'Mushnik and Son', a really good comedy number that was cut from the movie. Hard to see why, because there are plenty of laughs in it.

The role of the sadistic dentist (Audrey's boyfriend) was in the film, where Steve Martin played it, so there was no pressure on George Neeson!

However, although he is not in the sixth form yet, George is a seasoned campaigner with lots of BYT experience to draw on, and he hammed it up to geat effect. I loved his cackling as he overdosed on laughing gas.

The lead roles need help of course, and the rest of the cast was so slick and profesional that everything went very smoothly.

The movie had a three-girl Tamla Motown group acting as the chorus, moving the action along, and commenting on it too. Porthcawl had enough talent to make it a six-girl group, and they all did a great job.

The show's director, Miss Kelly Hardwick, must have been delighted with how the cast responded to her direction. With next year in mind, Molly and Anna are moving on, but there is plenty of talent remaining.

Miss Rhian Thomas doubled up as musical director and choreographer, and she made the most of a fine band, and the aforementioned professionalism of the cast.

Finally – and I was so tempted to lead with this – there is Audrey 2, the puppet. The show's producer, Mr Joe Smith, is credited as the puppeteer, and he made it come to life brilliantly, but I'm assuming that more people were involved in constructing the various incarnations of Audrey 2.

From its start as a pot plant, then as a hand puppet that was dragging Seymour around, and eventually to a scary monster that dominated the stage, it was a triumph.

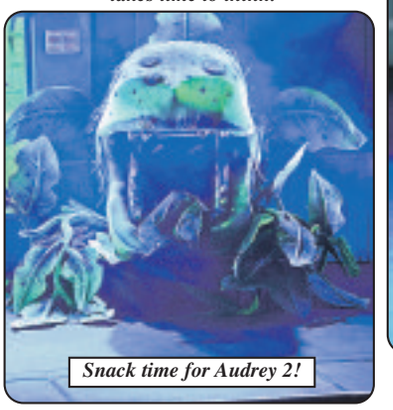
Apparently, when the show opened on off Broadway, the plant ended the show by moving to the very front of the stage, so its tendrils moved out over the audience! That would have been a great finale, but sadly, the pavilion's design means that the band was in the way!

The four performances played to almost full houses – which is great, but with the present crop of talent, it would be great if 'house full' notices were to go up next year.

It makes a big difference to the shows that the school is able to choose, so remember the praise given to this year's show when next January comes around!

GEM NOTE: A charity night in the Hi-Tide Inn on March 9 offers a chance to see Anna Arrieta's new band, 'Sarasota' and it should be a great night. James Evans-Jones will be performing too, and others. (For tickets, which are £7.50 and include a one-course meal, text 07852 793964).

Seymour (James Evans-Jones) takes time to think.

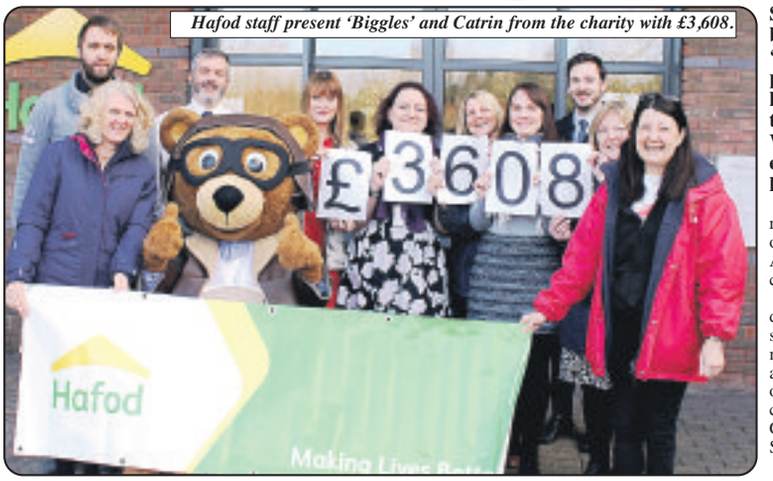


Snack time for Audrey 2!

ABOVE: Anna Arrieta played the voice of Audrey 2.

ABOVE: Audrey (Molly Brace) and Seymour fall in love.

Hafod staff help fund two life-saving missions



Hafod staff present 'Biggles' and Catrin from the charity with £3,608.

STAFF from Vale-based housing and 'care support' provider Hafod, have been helping to save lives across Wales by funding emergency helicopter missions.

Some 60 staff in the resources team raised over £3,600 for Wales Air Ambulance, their chosen charity.

Raffles, cake sales, dress-down days, sponsored runs and music nights all helped along with a donation of £500 from the committee of the Glynogwr and District Show.

Jenny Hutchison and Louise John from Hafod's finance team led the fundraising activities and were overwhelmed by the support.

Jenny said: "We chose the charity as they provide such an important service which is funded solely by donations. We were thrilled to hand over the cheque and know that we are helping to support such a great organisation."

Each of the charity's missions costs around £1,500 and Wales Air Ambulance needs to raise £6.5 million every year to fund its services.

Catrin Hall of Wales Air Ambulance said: "We would like to say a huge thank you to the staff at Hafod Resources, for their outstanding support. As a charity we rely on kind donations to fund our operations, and their donation will help to fund more than two of our missions. It is support like this that helps to keep us flying."

Hafod has thanked the following for donating raffles prizes: Kingfisher Developments, Willis Construction, Cosgrove Construction, Holbrook Construction, Pentan Architects and Taylormade Building Contractors Ltd.

POLICE JOIN FORCES TO REMEMBER THOSE WHO DIED IN NAZI HOLOCAUST

South Wales Police raised awareness on Holocaust Memorial Day.

SOUTH Wales Police officers have actively supported events around Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27, remembering some of humanity's darkest days during the Second World War.

The Holocaust Memorial Day Trust established the date in 2001 to remember the six million Jewish men, women and children, and others who were slaughtered in Nazi death camps, and to honour survivors

South Wales Police has since carried out a series of events to show support and raise awareness within our communities.

South Wales Police Deputy Chief Constable Matt Jukes said: "Holocaust Memorial Day is an important day, as it allows us to stop, think and remember the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and more recent genocides which have shocked the world.

"I have had the opportunity to visit Auschwitz with members of the Jewish community and on days such as this, I remember what I experienced and how I felt.

"My memories act as a reminder that everyone needs to work together to tackle all forms of discrimination and hatred that still affect communities today.

"Throughout our force area, officers and staff are engaging with many local events to show support and raise awareness."

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Do you have some spare time and want to do something enjoyable, rewarding and inspiring?

The Positive Steps project needs volunteers across South Wales to support older people over the age of 50 to regain and maintain their independence.

British Red Cross and Royal Voluntary Service charities are working together to enable individuals to take charge of their situation and, with support, become more independent and live more fulfilled lives.

Whatever your age, you'll find volunteering will change your life too whether you've recently retired, or you're looking to gain new skills for a new job.

For more information on volunteering with Positive Steps please get in touch:

Tel: 07436 799 608 or 029 2002 7855
Email: cardiffvalehub@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

In partnership with British Red Cross
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Camau Cadarn Positive Steps

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Trainspotting sequel lacks plot but fizzes with verve...

THE British film industry, in something of a moribund state, was given a shot in the arm (ironically) by the release of Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* in 1996.

Surfing on the wave of 'Cool Britannia', this story about heroin addicts in Edinburgh, coupled with a phenomenal soundtrack, seared a mark on culture that has lasted since.

With a sequel mooted for several years, it has taken until now to get the gang back together in *T2: Trainspotting*, which sees us reunite with Renton (Ewan McGregor), Sick Boy (Jonny Lee Miller), Spud (Ewan Bremner) and Begbie (Robert Carlyle).

When Renton returns home to Edinburgh, 20 years after stealing £16,000 from his former friends, some are pleased to see, him some less so; when he and Sick Boy get involved in a scheme with Sick Boy's girlfriend Veronika (Anjela Nedyalkova), will he become embroiled in his former life yet again – and will Begbie finally catch up to him...

While the pull of nostalgia has never been so strong, several sequels, made many years after the originals, have floundered in recent times, with the emphasis on looking back, rather than looking forward.

Given that *T2* sees the original cast and director Danny Boyle reuniting, you would feel that the project would be strong enough to hold its own against its illustrious forbear, and you'd be partly right.

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

While the film's narrative and central plot is less than convincing, what drags *T2* beyond pale imitation is how its has embraced the passing of time, and given the subject matter of the first film, how lives have been irrevocably affected, changed and shaped by the characters' surroundings.

This is a film steeped in both nostalgia but also how the world has changed; as we catch up to the characters and see where they are now, there's an intrigue in seeing what each of them has become.

Unsurprisingly, while Renton seems the most well-adjusted of the bunch, the rest are struggling to keep the head above water, heroin addiction, extortion and prison the fates of the other characters.

Yet as the collide with each other again, you can't help but be drawn in by the bittersweet poignancy of this reunion, something the script conveys through small moments that make a real impact, whether it's Spud bemoaning the advent of online banking as it has hampered his cheque fraud skills, or Renton's 21st century 'Choose Life' diatribe that pretty much nails life in the modern era.

The performances are likeable enough, never digging too deep but resonating nonetheless; McGregor slips comfortably back into the character of Renton as does Jonny Lee Miller as Sick Boy, while Robert Carlyle's Begbie is no less a ferocious tangle of anger, violence and short fuse than he was 20 years previous.

It's Ewan Bremner's Spud who arguably goes on the biggest change through the film, and Bremner delivers a strong turn to match the story, his fall and rise heartening amid the decay surrounding him.

Director Danny Boyle and writer John Hodge play all the right notes here, the former delivering his usual blend of visual trickery and editing skill to create something visually superb yet with no little depth, his camera always lingering on while Hodge's script astutely uses the passing of time from the last film to this one to add weight to the characters and their plights.

The film highlights how much has changed from 1996 to the present day, the gentrification of Edinburgh and surrounding areas, while a central plot strand concerning EU funding is granted an extra poignancy given the events of last June.

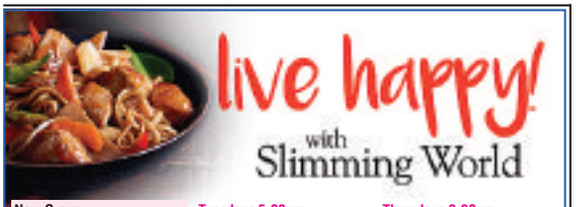
What does let the film down a little is the narrative, which feels less central to the film than the reunion with the characters; it's woolly at best, and seems the best way of tying up Renton and Sick Boy. The plot strands concerning Spud and Begbie are far more engaging, and it's a shame that Hodge wasn't able to construct something more engaging for the former pair.

That said though, *T2: Trainspotting* leans less on the crutch of nostalgia, and more on the nature of time and how its passing changes who we are; 21 years later, it's a pleasure to welcome back these rogues and see what they're up to – what you see is both entertaining and sobering.

VERDICT – A strong outing that just about hold water with its forbear, *T2: Trainspotting* has a woolly plot, but revisiting the characters 21 years on has its own pleasures.

Danny Boyle's direction is as visually kinetic as always and the performances are welcome enough in a film that balances nostalgia and present-day concerns well. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Trainspotting* (1996), *Shallow Grave* (1994)



New Group
Saturday 9.30am from 4th February
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 01446 761150/ 07809 901008

Mondays 5.00pm and 7.00pm
Cadoxton Moors Community Centre, off Cardiff Road, Barry
Julie 07903 585693

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Mondays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Tabernacle Church Kings Square, Barry
Lorraine 01446 407002

Tuesdays 9.30am and 11.30am
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Tuesdays 5.30pm
Holy Trinity Presbyterian, Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Tuesdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968355119

Tuesdays 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola 01446 740394

Wednesdays 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church, Church Road, Barry
Joanne 01446 404897

Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 07837 497523

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen 07714 170908

Wednesday 7.30pm from 4th January
Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

Wednesdays 9.30am and 11.30am
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 01446 761150/ 07809 901008

Wednesdays 5.00pm
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 01446 761150/ 07809 901008

Thursdays 3.30pm, 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill
Millie 07765 040006

Thursdays 10.15am
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Thursdays 5:30pm
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Thursday 9.30am
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WHAT'S ON / IN BRIEF

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, February 2 Cowbridge Art Society will hold a practical session when members will create a still life work in a medium of their choice.

On Thursday, February 9, local artist and teacher Derek Windsor will give a demonstration of painting a portrait in oils (see coastalgalleries.co.uk/artists/derek-windsor).

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9pm) and occasional visitors and new members are welcome.

Friends of Penarth Library

A VALENTINE cake sale will be held at Penarth library on Saturday, February 11. It will take place between 11am and 1pm.

Sculpture exhibition at Dyffryn Gardens

AN outdoor trail designed by members of Sculpture Cymru was launched on January 29 as a part of a temporary exhibition to 'reflect on the history and botanical collections of the award-winning Dyffryn Gardens'.

The 'Place' exhibition, which has been installed at the National Trust attraction in the Vale, explores the history, design and rich plantings of the Edwardian gardens.

Sculptors who have taken part in the exhibition include artist Lee Odishow, who was chosen to design a new First World War memorial for Belgium's war zone, and John Howes, formerly Director of the BA Fine Art programme at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David, Swansea.

"We are thrilled that the varied works of the artists of Sculpture Cymru are adding an intriguing aspect to the rich experience of all our thousands of visitors who come to see our wonderful plants and trees, wide vistas and intimate garden rooms," said Geraldine Donovan, general manager at Dyffryn Gardens.

"It has been great to see so many talented sculptors embrace the history and environment of Dyffryn and reflect this within their emotive pieces of art around our gardens."

One of the 12 pieces installed at Dyffryn Gardens is the impressive marble and stone sculpture 'Lost Comrades' designed by Glenn Morris.

During the First World War, the soldiers in the trenches saw butterflies, which they believed were the souls of their lost comrades. Drawing on this, Glenn's art comprises a large carving in marble of a butterfly's egg mounted on to a stone base.

Glenn Morris commented: "Since the First World War, 187 million people have been killed in conflicts around the world. The butterflies on the stone work of 'Lost Comrades' are made from lead bullets collected from the Somme and each butterfly represents 1 million people killed since the end of the 'war to end all wars'."

From the beginning of the gardens, through its near demise due to war, and now to its return to former splendour, the trail will coincide with Dyffryn's plantsman's response to the First World War.

Reginald Cory, son of John Cory who bought the Dyffryn estate in 1891, was a passionate horticulturist. During the First World War, Reginald grew 100,000 fruit and vegetable plants, including six acres of potatoes, in Dyffryn in order to help with the war effort.

The 'Place' exhibition runs until September 2017.

Win tickets to see Mike Doyle

POPULAR Welsh entertainer Mike Doyle is bringing his 'In Concert' show to Maesteg Town Hall on February 10.

The singer and comedian first came to prominence in 1988, when he appeared on BBC's *Bob Says Opportunity Knocks*, winning his heat and then appearing in the final.

His long career includes three of his own series for The BBC and West End appearances as the Big Bopper in *Buddy* and Teen Angel in *Grease*.

He has been a headliner on cruise lines for over 30 years and has appeared in 24 pantomimes to date, most recently at the New Theatre Cardiff alongside David Hasselhoff.

Mike is delighted to be bringing his show with his live band to Maesteg. To be in with a chance to win a pair of tickets for the show, answer the following question...

• *Mike appeared in a theatre tour in 2007, playing an iconic Welsh boxer in a musical.* ***What was the name of the boxer?***

Send your answer on an email to *ianparsonsproducer@gmail.com* – the deadline for this is Wednesday, February 8 at 5pm.

All the correct answers will be put into a hat and a winner will be drawn and notified on February 9.

Come and join
Mike Doyle
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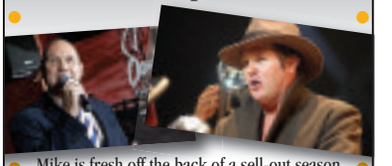
A sensational evening of his unique brand of comedy and music, guaranteed to delight and entertain in equal measure.



Mike is fresh off the back of a sell-out season at Cardiff New Theatre starring alongside David Hasselhoff in the pantomime Peter Pan.
01656 815995
www.mikedoyle.co.uk
www.maestegtownhall.com

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Black comedy and good music for Porthcawl's shop of horrors

The plant is getting bigger and stronger.

Above: (Left to right): Mitchell Davies (Mr Mushnik); James Evans-Jones (Seymour) and Molly Brace (Audrey).
ALL PHOTOS by MALCOLM NUGENT.

ABOVE: It's Audrey's death scene.

(Continued from page 14)

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

(CAST AND PRODUCTION CREDITS)

CAST

Seymour – *James Evans-Jones;* Audrey – *Molly Brace*; Audrey 2 – *Anna Arrieta*; Mushnik – *Mitchell Davies*; Dentist – *George Neeson*; Ronnettes – *Elin Morris, Maddie Dawson; Lauren Ellis-Stretch; Blythe Hughes-Davies; Keeley Fry; Megan Morris*.

Bernstein – *Daniel Knowles*; His assistant – *Lucy Vinen*; Luce – *Lydia Pickett*; Her assistant – *Patrick O'Neil*; Snip – *Jack Williams*; His assistant – *Sarah Williams*; Patrick Martin – *Siobhan Cartwright*; Customer 1 – *Daniel Knowles;* His wife – *Phoebe Howells-Hopkins*; Interviewer – *Sophie Wells*

PRINCIPLE ENSEMBLE

Lucy Vinen; Lydia Pickett; Patrick O'Neil; Jack Williams; Annabelle Morgan; Siobhan Cartwright; Daniel Knowles; Sarah Williams; Sophie Wells; Lowri Howell; Katie Williams; Phoebe Howells-Hopkins.

CHORUS

Saiorise Davies; Alice Webber; Rhiannon Mainwaring; Rebecca Adams; James Grandon; Thara Hopkin; Amber Cliffe; Tessa Castanera-Webber; Georgia Baglow; Chloe Green; Charlotte Evans-Jones; Millie Fry; Karah Watkins; Jenny Passingham; Daisy Brown; Rhiannon Tuckett-Jones; Robin Edwards; Hannah Strong; Georgina Anderson; Alice Cox; India Clatworthy; Holly Sinclair; Ewan Aitchison-Hough; Jamie Harrowing; Owen Thomas; Rhiannon Drummond; Carys Morgan; Eve Manley; Finley Hemsley; Olivia Pownall; Max Williams; Keighan Dyer; Joshua Russell; Jaycie Dyer; Grace Ward Smith; Elodie Guillerm; Carys Rosser-Stanford; Elys Davies; Abbie Audsley.

Production Team

Director - Miss Kelly Hardwick.

Musical Director – Miss Rhian Thomas.

Choreographer – Miss Rhian Thomas.

Production Manager – Mr Joe Smith.

Assistant Musical Director – Mrs Kathryn Lewis.

Stage manager – Sam Stables.

Deputy stage manager – Samantha Timbrell.

Assistant stage managers – Katie Pickett and Lauren Slaughter.

Crew – Jessica Adams.

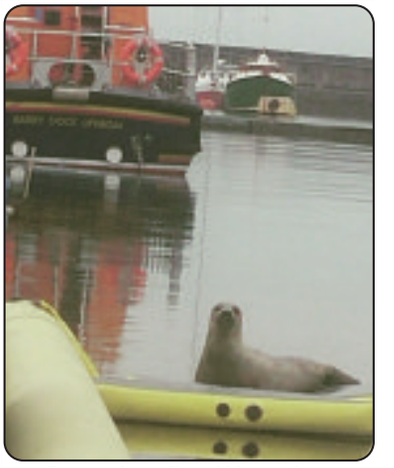
Puppeteer – Mr Joe Smith.

Band

Keyboard 1 – Alexandra Hunt; Keyboard 2 – Laurence Hunt; Guitar – Dave Jefferies; Bass – Jack Bridger; Trumpet 1 – Simon Gray; Trumpet 2 – Rhianwen Keirl; Reed 1 – Heidi Davies; Reed 2 – Phillipa Richards; Percussion – Huw Griffiths.

ABOVE: George Neeson (centre) played the sadistic dentist.

It's the end of the show, and little Audrey 2s are ready to be sent all around America.



'Sammy the seal' would be a welcome member of the Barry RNLI crew!

LIFEBOAT'S FAREWELL TO 'SAMMY THE SEAL'

'SAMMY the Seal' took a liking to Barry Dock RNLI lifeboat *Inner Wheel II* while she was in Holyhead for maintenance and repairs.

The *Inner Wheel II* welcomed the unusual visitor recently, as she was moored at Holyhead RNLI lifeboat station for general maintenance and repairs.

Spotted by Holyhead RNLI volunteer crew member Beth Wilkinson, the native grey seal was dubbed 'Sammy' by the Anglesey crew.

Beth said: "Seals are regular visitors to Holyhead area and Sammy is waving farewell to the *Inner Wheel II* as it leaves Holyhead after a month.

"The RNLI has a rigorous selection process for volunteers, but Sammy would be a welcome addition!"

The Trent class lifeboat was docked at the Holyhead Lifeboat Station in Anglesey and spent the last month undergoing general maintenance and repair.

A replacement lifeboat from the RNLI's relief fleet *Dora Foster McDougall* is currently moored at Barry Docks RNLI station, allowing the station to maintain a 24-hour uninterrupted operational search and rescue service for the surrounding area.

The *Inner Wheel II* returned to Barry Dock on January 20.

Green Party leader will visit Penarth

Jonathan Bartley, who was elected co-leader of the Green Party, together with Caroline Lucas MP, in September last year, will be visiting Penarth on Tuesday, February 7, to support local member Anthony Slaughter's council election campaign.

Mr Slaughter, a former Deputy Leader of the Wales Green Party, will be contesting the St Augustine's ward, where he has lived for over a decade.

They will be meeting various Penarth organisations and businesses to discuss local issues from a Green perspective, and also representatives from Tidal Lagoon Power to discuss the future of the planned tidal lagoons in Swansea and Cardiff.

Local Green Party members will be hosting a street stall in the town centre in the afternoon, giving Penarth residents a chance to meet Jonathan and Anthony and ask questions.

The stall will be on Windsor Road, next to the entrance to the Windsor Arcade, from 2pm to 3pm.

Anthony Slaughter said ' We are delighted to be welcoming Jonathan to Penarth. During recent campaigning I have met many local residents who have expressed a keen interest in Green policies on local issues.

"My long involvement with various community initiatives has also shown me that there is a strong appetite in Penarth for practical grassroots solutions to the problems."

MUSIC IN THE VALE

Manon Ogwen Parry, aged 17, from Penarth

THE finalists in the Music in the Vale competition, held last November, performed in All Saints Church, Penarth on January 22, at a concert to raise money for this year's competition.

Other performers were members of the WNO Orchestra and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. The concert was well supported by several finalists and a large audience was treated to a musical afternoon of singers and musicians illustrating how much young talent there is in Wales.

Efa Peak, aged 10, from Penarth.

Huw Boucher, aged 14, from Penarth.

Macie Wallis, aged 14, from Bridgend.

Aston Martin a 'Welsh success'

ATTRACTING Aston Martin to St Athan was a "fantastic success for Wales", said Alun Cairns.

The Vale MP and Welsh Secretary was facing questions from Welsh MPs in the Commons recently when Plaid Cymru's Arfon MP Hywel Williams said a special deal had been cut for the car industry in the north east, and he wanted to know if Mr Cairns had sought a similar deal in Wales.

Mr Cairns told Mr Williams: "The automotive sector is exceptionally strong in Wales, partly as a result of the Nissan contract in Sunderland, for which many of the supplier companies are based in Wales.

"I also draw attention to the great success of the Secretary of State for Defence in bringing Aston Martin to Wales.

"We should recognise and celebrate the fantastic success on that MoD base."

Vale Ramblers embrace the winter weather

THE Vale Ramblers' Sunday walk certainly reinforced the aspiration of donning waterproofs and embracing the weather – whatever the conditions!

Eighteen ramblers walked in the Wentwood forest, on pathways under mist shrouded trees with rain drops trickling from the overhanging branches.

As so often on winter walks, there was mud aplenty, oozing but not quite engulfing – just enough to ensure that we kept our wits about us and didn't end up with enormous amounts of post-walk washing. An energising walk, I think all would agree!

Do come and join us, we always welcome anyone who just wants to see what it's all about. Our next walk this Sunday, February 5, will involve a train ride. Meet at Cowbridge Town Hall car park at 9am to car share. Find more details on www.valeof glamorganramblers.co.uk.

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MIXED MESSAGES ON THE DAY THE US PRESIDENT WAS INAUGURATED

Bridgend MP **MADELEINE MOON** reports on a momentous event in Washington

THE goal was accessing the Canadian Embassy... The police would not let us cross the road, so there we were, representatives of 11 Nato countries stuck, with anti-Trump supporters in front and pro-Trump supporters to our rear.

It was an apt, if very uncomfortable position to be in, especially when those to our rear became agitated and began shouting"*God bless Trump!*" and let us cross while pushing forward.

So what was I doing, stuck there in this crowd on the US President's Inauguration Day?

The Defence and Security Committee of the NATO PA visits Washington each January for a meeting with the defence community. This includes the military, think tanks, senators and congressional leaders.

This year, we were also invited to watch the inauguration of the new President from the Canadian embassy, which overlooks Capitol Hill. I want to use this article to give you an insight into what we saw and how it felt to be in Washington for those few days...

The military and police had closed off streets, blocking them with large vehicles and armed personnel along the route to the embassy. The fear was of a Nice-like terrorist attack. The streets were strangely deserted outside of the city centre, which Americans with the delegation told us was very unusual on an inauguration day.

Near the Washington Monument, we talked with demonstrators opposed to the incoming President's stance on climate change, Obama care, Muslims, and immigration.

Those who voted for Mr Trump wore red '*Make America Great Again*' baseball hats, many saying this was their first-ever visit to Washington. There was no feeling of tension, no animosity between the opposing groups and everyone we met was polite and wanted to know about our visit to the US.

All went well until the inauguration speech. The Canadian Embassy was full of visitors, the atmosphere positive, even festive. This changed as everyone was struck dumb as they listened to the inauguration address. People talked in small groups about the tone and language, which was unlike anything anyone had heard before from an incoming major political leader. There was deep concern as to what this meant for the future. The event fell flat and people began to leave.

In the evening, walking across the city, we passed armed riot police, people with faces hidden behind masks and scarves alongside men in tuxedos and women in ball gowns and high heels. It was tense, there were clear divisions, but I saw no violence.

We left Washington the next day to visit the Navy at Annapolis so did not see the women's march. We did, however, meet many of those who went on the march when we returned, including some who had flown in from Alaska and a group from California who had driven for 29 hours to attend.

Many spoke of the need to be politically active and to push back against values they felt were threatening America's outward-looking, tolerant world view.

The President and his press secretaries' claims the next day about the numbers attending the two events were, again, shocking. We had seen the small numbers attending the inauguration and the empty seats for the parade. To hear the attacks on the media and the claim that there were no lies – just different interpretations of facts – was chilling.

The news that the White House website had removed information about Obama care, domestic violence support and climate change was made more worrying by news reports of freak weather across America. High winds, hurricanes, snow storms, flooding and unseasonal high temperatures were hitting many states.

Our visits on the Hill were a mixed bag. We stood on the inauguration balcony, on the floors of the Senate and Congress in between meetings with political figures, academics, officials and think tanks.

The general tone of meetings was of insecurity, nervousness, and the repeated mantra of "it's early days".

I was shown pieces of the Berlin Wall, kept as a reminder of Ronald Reagan's speech when he said: "Mr Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

I commented that it was a little ironic that America now had a President who wanted to build walls. No, I was told – the scenarios were different, this was about protecting the US border. Keeping people out, not keeping people in.

In side meetings, I was urged not to give up on America and told we will need your help, don't be afraid to speak out and condemn the administration when they do the wrong things.

There were high hopes of Theresa May's visit and hopes that she would set the tone for serious political debate and decision making. In one meeting, we explored the scenario of a Russian invasion of the Balkans, and one of the delegates saw his town destroyed in the first hour, others saw their country lost within days.

This was the most depressing overseas visit I have made. I have been in war zones, dictatorships and countries whose views on women and family values were anathema to me and left with hope that change was possible.

To hear the lies and threats and see the political anxiety in America was not good. So many people told me that the next few years would see a testing of the strength of the American constitution, and not to forget not everyone supported the direction the country was taking. Since then, we have had comments endorsing torture, and blocking immigration by Muslims, contrasted with a mainly respectful visit by our Prime Minister.

I fear America will face many challenges over the coming years as the new President makes his changes. None of us will be unaffected by the decisions made here. We will all be challenged.

I want to end as always on a positive note. Another great change is happening, one I have felt coming for a while, the coming together, the closer unity, the closer bonds and sense of common destiny of NATO PA members facing the uncertainty of the new America.

Tory leader signs Holocaust Book of Commitment

LEADER of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, has signed the Holocaust Educational Trust Book of Commitment, as people across the world marked Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27.

The book was placed outside the Senedd chamber, and Mr Davies focused his contribution on the importance of learning the lessons of history to make sure such atrocities never happen again.

He wrote: "*History teaches us we should never forget and we should always protect against evil. Standing up for what we believe in is something we should all do to make sure evil never succeeds*."

January 27 marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, and is commemorated each year as Holocaust Memorial Day.

The millions of people murdered or persecuted during the Holocaust, and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur are also remembered.

Thirteen lucky for some on a ramble to Brecon!

BARRIE from Penarth and District Ramblers took his group of 13 walkers from the pretty and bustling town of Brecon on a journey across rivers and frozen white covered fields and through pretty byways to visit a Roman fort, spying a total of four red kites on the journey.

But first of all a visit to the stunning Brecon Cathedral, which dates back to 1093, when it was built by the Normans as the Benedictine Priory of St John the Evangelist, only receiving its cathedral status in 1923.

Arriving at a domed stone-built building (which everyone thought was a pig-pen until it became clear it was a covered well) and under blue skies and in bright sunshine, a climb to the trig point on Pen-y-crug for morning break afforded very misty views of the central Beacons and surrounding countryside.

Following roads and rough tracks to the Roman fort of Y Gaer, where the outline of the fort walls, entrances and turrets are still visible, it is hard to believe that this peaceful place once controlled five major Roman roads and held a garrison of over 500 cavalry and horses, with military training areas in the first century.

After lunch, and trekking through woodland before spying the large private fishing lake at Goudy through the bare trees, sunken lanes brought them back into fields leading to the River Usk and the Promenade at Brecon, above which on a hill stands the Castle Hotel, formerly an 11th century Norman stronghold.

After becoming a coaching inn, then the residence of the Morgan family of Tredegar Park, in 1809 Sir Charles Morgan converted it into the first modern hotel in Wales.

The next day, Robin and Pepper were joined by 10 walkers for the journey up to Llangorse Lake and setting out through the mist, fields brought them into Llangorse village then on by road and track to reach Llangorse Multi-Activity Centre, which boasts a zip wire with marvellous views.

Tramping through fields and a boggy sunken lane to pause for morning break beside a refurbished shepherd's hut, a good path led them uphill onto Mynydd Llangorse where there was a slight breeze.

They went on to the pretty little church dedicated to St Gastyn built on the southern shores of the lake at Llangasty-Talyllyn, as the church was open there was a chance to view the inside of this rebuilt Victorian church, which was originally founded by St Gastyn in the fifth century.

The area around the southern side of the delightful Llangorse Lake, which is fringed by reed beds, does flood and crossing a series of footbridges and boardwalks, built to help with this problem and passing a bird hide, boggy fields led them back to the northern side of the lake with its historic rebuilt 'crannog', or small man-made island to the car park for the journey home.

***On February 4**, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate walk at Goodrich in the Wye Valley; contact Joy on 01446 737131.*

***On February 5**, meet at 9am at Cogan for a 10-mile moderate walk at Ystradfellte taking in the Mellte and Nedd valleys; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.*

To follow the group log on to www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Plan to force councils to merge is no more – *but could PR be on the cards?*

by PHILIP IRWIN

A NEW White Paper put forward by Local Government Secretary Mark Drakeford contains a number of possible changes to the way councillors could be elected in the future

It also appears to dispense with the idea of forcing councils to merge to make savings – although it entertains the possibility of councils 'choosing to merge' if they see that as a way of cutting costs.

When the idea of cutting the number of local authorities from 22 to 10 or fewer was put forward by the Williams Commission, the Vale Council was lined up to be swallowed by the much larger Cardiff City Council.

In response, a voluntary merger between the Vale and Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) was proposed by the two councils, but it remains to be seen if that plan could resurface.

Even if they opt to stay as they are, councils will be expected to increase the areas where they work jointly, as a way of saving money.

In the white paper, Mr Drakeford has also proposed lowering the voting age to 16, but it is the possibility of Proportional Representation (PR) that has attracted the most attention.

First past the post system is the present system, but Mr Drakeford wants to hear what people think about offering a form of proportional representation.

However, it appears that a PR system will not be imposed on a council – that council will have the choice.

Mr Drakeford said: "They will be able to decide between FPTP (first past the post) and STV (single transferable vote) as a way of conducting elections."

With FPTP, voters cast one vote and the candidate with the most votes wins. If a ward has more than one seat up for election, then the candidates with the most votes take the seats.

STV allows voters to put numbers next to candidates in order of preference. Candidates then need to reach a percentage of the votes, determined by the number of seats available.

The Electoral Reform Society (ERS) Cymru is very enthusiastic about STV.

Darren Hughes, the acting director of ERS Cymru, said: "This White Paper is a hugely encouraging sign, and shows that the Welsh government is serious about empowering voters and revitalising democracy in Wales.

"A fairer voting system for local government – which would allow voters to rank their candidates by preference – would be a big step forward. Moving away from the Westminster winner-takes-all system across the board would mean everyone's vote counted in local elections.

"PR is a normal part of life for voters in Scotland and Northern Ireland, ensuring that all council seats are contested and that all votes count.

"The Single Transferable Vote has been used in Scotland for 10 years now, and in Northern Ireland since the 1970s, and gives fair results that represent the diverse swathe of opinion that exists.

"Systems that are more responsive to voters' views will also be more responsive to their needs.

"In the 2012 election, Wales had 99 uncontested council seats – with over 140,000 voters denied a say. Part of this is down to a voting system that gives huge majorities on small chunks of the vote, and is a disincentive for choice.

"By contrast, in the final set of Scottish local elections run under First Past the Post in 2003 Scotland had 61 uncontested seats – yet following the shift to the Single Transferable Vote in 2007 that figure hit zero.

"At the same time, the average number of candidates standing per ward went from 3.4 in 2003 under FPTP to 7.1 in 2012 under STV, and the proportion of people seeing their first choice candidate elected soared from 52 per cent in 2003 to 77 per cent in 2012."

***GEM NOTE**: It should be made clear that this White Paper is a consultation document, and no changes are envisaged for the local government elections in May of this year.*

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CARDIFF AND VALE COLLEGE STUDENTS 'DO IT FOR REAL'

A MOBILE hairdressing service for people with additional support needs, and a project to create bespoke hairpieces for those with hair loss, proposed by students from Cardiff and Vale College, has been given start-up funding.

The college students whose projects have been given start-up funding.

The enterprises are the latest to be supported by UnLtd, a foundation programme aimed to help young people start, grow and build social action projects.

The hair and beauty students went through a rigorous process of pitching their ideas to a panel of social entrepreneurs. Their project will create wigs at a reduced cost for people suffering with hair loss due to health reasons.

Wayne Carter, CAVC's widening participation manager, said: "The applications for the awards programme were of a very high standard.

"Always Unique was set up by Elizabeth Connor, who is on a Level 3 hairdressing programme at the college, and will offer mobile hair and beauty treatments to people with additional support needs, while three students known as Imagine will develop a service for people who have suffered hair loss by creating of bespoke wigs and styling them with patients."

CAVC enterprise and enrichment team leader Claire Oatridge said: "The programme encourages young people to be more entrepreneurial and help those interested in starting a business take their ideas forward."

Do It For Real is the new youth programme by Spirit of 2012, Comic Relief and UnLtd.

The organisations have come together to help young people aged 11-30, discover their full potential and contribute to their communities, their futures and their livelihoods through social entrepreneurship.

The programme will enable partners to contribute to transforming the lives of thousands of young people ready to make a positive difference in their communities.

There is still an opportunity to apply for an award of cash and support of between £500 and £5,000. More information available at www.cavc.ac.uk.

'Wasteful T9 bus should be scrapped' – says a ward candidate

THE Welsh Labour Government wasted almost half a million pounds last year on the T9 Airport Express Bus, according to new figures obtained by the Conservatives.

Labour's Transport Minister – Ken Skates – confirmed the figures recently in answering a written question.

Around £1.3m has been given in grants and subsidies to the Vale Council for the T9 over three years – despite cuts to local Vale bus services, including the 98 to Highlight Park, Barry.

The Conservative candidate for the Dyfan Ward in Barry – Vincent Bailey – has called for the T9 to be scrapped, with money saved being spent on restoring local services.

Mr Bailey, said: "The amount of taxpayers' money being thrown at the Empty 9 is an absolute scandal.

"Almost half a million pounds was wasted last year by the Welsh Labour Government on a service that locals still can't use, and a bus which still regularly runs empty.

"It's time for the T9 to be scrapped, with the savings spent on improvements to local services in the Vale.

"Barry residents deserve a better transport service and having fought to stop cuts to local routes such as the 98 to Highlight, I can understand their anger and frustration at seeing this empty bus rolling along Port Road every 20 minutes or so."

GROWING AIRPORT

A Welsh Government spokesman pointed out that since it took ownership of Cardiff Airport in 2013, it had become one of the UK's fastest growing airports.

"Passenger numbers have increased month on month for 20 straight months, and grew by approximately 15 per cent between 2015 and 2016.

"It's imperative that our national airport has regular public transport to and from it and we'd expect these numbers to continue to grow as the airport continues to expand and increase in popularity.

"We have protected our 'Bus Services Support Grant' to all councils in Wales in recent budgets, which enables them to subsidise bus and community transport services they deem necessary in their areas.

"The Vale Council is separately and additionally reimbursed for the operation of the T9 service. It has never been a case of choosing local services over the airport shuttle, Vale communities should expect both."

Coun Peter King, cabinet member for transportation, explained that the Vale Council tendered the contract for the Cardiff Airport Express Service T9 on behalf of the Welsh Government, which wholly subsidises the service through a specific grant.

He said: "The current projected cost for 2016/17 is £450,334 and the latest data indicates 7,126 people used the service in December.

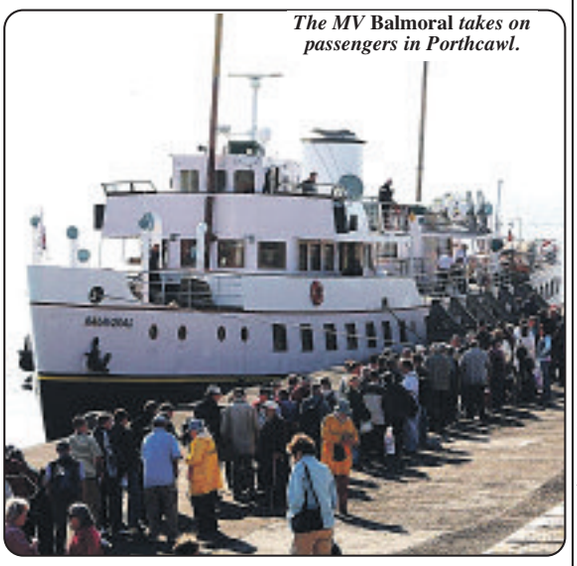
"The withdrawal of this service would not necessarily mean that its funding would be directed to support other local buses in this or other areas of Wales. This would be a matter for Welsh Government to decide, not the council.

"The service helps make Cardiff Airport and Wales more accessible, especially the capital Cardiff, which has knock-on benefits for surrounding areas like the Vale.

"In an effort to ensure the T9 causes minimum disruption to local services throughout the Vale, passenger journeys have to either start or end at the airport terminal. That means they don't have a negative impact on other bus services operating on a commercial basis along parts of the route."

He added: "Service 98 is a commercial service provided by Cardiff Bus. However, a small amount of financial support is agreed annually in order to provide continued service provision between Christmas and New Year. Without this, the service would not otherwise run due to Cardiff Bus's application of Saturday timetables over this period."

MV *Balmoral* makes plea for more cash



The MV **Balmoral** *takes on passengers in Porthcawl.*

THE *Balmoral* steamship is continuing its appeal for funds that will enable it to continue sailing this summer.

The steamship runs a series of trips along the Bristol Channel coastline, calling at resorts on both sides of the channel.

However, poor weather last year forced a number of trips to be cancelled, and now the charitable trust that maintains the steamship is in desperate need of funds.

Paul Doubler, a trustee of the MV *Balmoral* Fund Ltd, told The GEM: "We desperately need £140,000 with only a few weeks left before we must decide we are sailing, or sadly we don't have enough to cover dry docking costs so must call things off.

"This would be a very sad loss to Penarth where we call more at the splendid Victorian Pier than anywhere else in the UK, and are also very well supported at Porthcawl and Swansea.

For more information, go to www.mvbalmoral.org.uk, www.whitefunnel.co.uk or contact Paul.doubler@btinternet.com

Trading standards advice

DO you have an issue related to trading standards or would like to chat to an adviser from Trading Standards Cardiff and Vale?

Age Connects Cardiff and The Vale are holding a advice session on Tuesday, February 7 at 10am to 12 noon at the Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed; contact 01446 732385 for further information.

In Business Update

No job is too big or too small for Precision Green

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Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us - visit our Facebook page, Precision Green.

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Local firm has been solving accountancy problems for 10 years

A LOCAL accountancy firm is looking back on a decade in business in its Cardiff base – and is keen to offer its services to new customers,

'Accounted For' celebrated 10 years of trading last year and over that period of time it has been pretty busy.

To date successfully delivered more than…

- 3,000+ Ltd Company year ends.
- 3,000+ self assessment tax returns.
- 6,000+ VAT returns.
- 100,000+ payslips.

All of the above were on time, and also on budget.

The company has accounted for over £35 million in turnover and has accounted for more than £100 million in assets.

Anyone interested in seeing whether Accounted For can help their business, should get in touch via the contact details below.

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For more information, visit www.malmohearing.co.uk You can also find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

AN EXPERT'S ADVICE COULD AVOID DISPUTE

BRENDAN SWEENEY of David Prosser & Co Solicitors, writes:

It is estimated that 60 per cent of the UK population do not have a Will.

A Will takes effect on your death and is an instruction as to what is to happen to your estate.

Probate disputes and challenges to Wills are becoming a growth area, which often leads to substantial costs.

We now live in a world where family relationships are often very complex, and expert advice regarding the drafting of a Will is essential.

A professional advisor can also advise you in relation to inheritance tax, and how you plan to minimise potential liabilities to inheritance tax

It is important that people are fully aware of their duties and financial responsibilities when they make a Will, to ensure that they comply with the technicalities that are required to have a valid Will.

The cost of a professionally-drafted Will, after taking advice, is considerably less than the costs that can be incurred if there is a dispute regarding your financial affairs after your death.

Substantial costs can also be saved by taking professional advice early, and putting in place Powers of Attorney – whereby you appoint trusted people to make decisions about your property and financial affairs and health and welfare, if your lose capacity.

The people appointed are made fully aware of their rights and responsibilities.

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David Prosser & Co is the trading name of DP Law Limited.

Tinnitus Awareness Week
6th -12th February 2017

30% of people will experience Tinnitus at some point in their lives. Tinnitus is more common in people who have a hearing loss or other ear problem, it can also be found in people with normal hearing.

Are you suffering from tinnitus?
Tinnitus is the name of the noise that is heard in 1 or both ears or in the head. It may be low, medium or high pitched and may be a single noise or a mixture of noise. Ear wax is known to cause or worsen Tinnitus so your problem may simply be down to wax. At Malmo Hearing, we offer microsuction wax removal.

Microsuction – A procedure which uses gentle suction to remove ear wax. It is performed using a finely calibrated suction device and microscope and is performed without the use of water. Microsuction is ideal for clients who have a perforated eardrum, dizziness problems or a dislike to water in the ears.

Hearing loss - The loss of hearing is often an unnoticeable and gradual process and many people are surprised when they are told that they have a hearing loss.

What can we do for you?
Here at Malmo Hearing, we can spend time investigating the level of Tinnitus and can determine if a treatable medical condition exists or if further Medical evaluation is necessary. The results will be explained by our Hearing Aid Audiologists. We will explain in detail our findings and options of what treatment may be suitable. Tinnitus can cause distress and anxiety but there are many ways we can help you manage your Tinnitus.

During Tinnitus Awareness Week we will be offering:
- Free ear examinations • Free hearing assessments
- Free advice on managing your Tinnitus

Why not pop in to our 'Together for Tinnitus' coffee morning on Friday 10th February 2017 between 9.00am-12pm to have an informal chat about your Tinnitus.

Call us now on 01656 652444 to reserve your free appointment.

Malmo Hearing
Local Hearing Care for Local People

New Hearing Clinic on February 9th

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Celtic festival stages its first children's choral competition

Aneirin Jones (centre) the winner of last year's 'Young Musician of the Festival' competition, with the judges.

THIS year's inter-Celtic festival will host a choir competition for the first time when it comes to the Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl (March 10–12).

On Sunday, March 12, primary school children from south Wales will have the opportunity to perform and compete in Cwlwm Celtaidd's first choir competition.

Young competitors under the age of 11 will perform songs from the folk traditions of Wales and beyond.

The choral competition adds to Cwlwm Celtaidd's established 'Young Musician of the Festival' competition that has been welcoming young performers aged 10 to 18 from the Celtic countries to compete and perform.

The winner of the 2016 Young Musician of the Festival prize was Aneirin Jones, an 18-year-old violinist from Pontardawe.

Aneirin will perform with the 2015 winner, Dylan Cairns-Howarth at the Festival this year.

He said: "The competition was a great experience in every respect, with the judges giving useful advice on my performance, whether technical or commenting on how to further improve my performance skills.

"It has contributed hugely to the way I prepare, perform and practice my repertoire."

Tickets for the competitions and concert on Sunday, March 12 are £5 – available from the Grand Pavilion box office on 01656 815995.

Barry schoolboy (9) meets his heroes

...and sets his sights on a police career!

A BARRY schoolboy who penned a letter to his local police station has this week met the "heroes" he aspires to become.

In a letter to 'the chief of the Barry police department', nine-year-old Ellis Nash wrote of his dream to join the police force and urged officers to "keep up the good work."

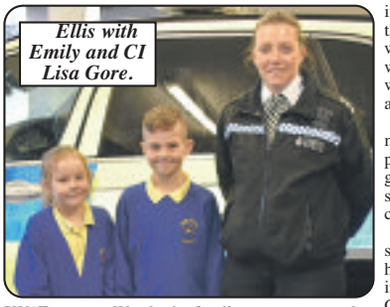
He wrote: "I've loved policemen since I was young. I love your work, you save the country.

"Also you are my hero! When I grow up I want to be in the SWAT team. When I grow up I will fight crime."

Impressed by the High Street Primary pupil's enthusiasm – which also included a request to "see jail so I know what I'm in for in future" – new Chief Inspector for the Vale of Glamorgan, Lisa Gore, responded with a letter of her own, along with an invitation for the youngster to visit Barry Police Station with his family.

CI Gore wrote: "It's very kind of you to thank us for our good work and I'll make sure that the officers in Barry are aware of your kind words.

"I can see that you would like to be in the SWAT team. We don't have SWAT teams in the UK, they are in the USA, but we do have a firearms unit that maybe you could think about."



Ellis with Emily and CI Lisa Gore.

She added: "Make sure that you keep fit and eat healthily though, as you will have your fitness tested to be a police officer and to be a firearms officer you need to be really fit, so it would be good to have good exercise and eating habits now.

"Also you need to work hard in school and concentrate in class. I know it's not always easy but it's important to get a good education so that you can pass the entrance exams to be a police officer."

As well as meeting the Chief Inspector and Sergeant Julie Odgers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team earlier this week, the Nash family were also surprised with a visit from two firearms officers.

PCs Martyn Davies and Tony O'Hanlon explained their roles to Ellis and his sister Emily, seven, before showing them the wide range of equipment contained in their armed response vehicles.

The family were also given a tour of the station, including the former custody cells, before the children made fingerprint keyrings with Sgt Odgers as a keepsake of their special visit.

Inquisitive Ellis, who impressed the team with his knowledge and interest, said: "I wrote the letter because I really want to be a policeman when I'm older and I want to know as much about the job as I can.

"The visit has been so much fun – my favourite parts were seeing the guns and putting the sirens on in the police car."

Chief Inspector Gore said: "It was a pleasure to have Ellis and his family in to see us at the station. Our officers work tirelessly to keep south Wales safe, and it's always really heartening to receive positive feedback from the public, especially someone as young as Ellis.

"He has a genuine interest in the work we do and I hope the visit has further inspired him to follow his ambition.

"He's learned all about our Police Youth Volunteer scheme which he sounded keen to take part in when he's a little bit older, and I hope we'll be welcoming him to the force in 10 years' time."

Highways respond to concern over Dinas 'build-out'

A motorist struck the new 'build-out' on Cross Common Road in Dinas Powys.

The 'build-out' is on the stretch of road leading from the entrance to Hebron Hall up to the newly built junction. It slows traffic.

Plaid councillor Chris Franks said, "I do hope no-one was hurt. The Vale Highways staff have been alerted to the incident. I suppose that people are not expecting a change in the road layout.

"It appears that there was a lack of cones indicating the build-out. There is a slight rise in the road and the build out is in a dip so visibility might not be perfect.

"Probably once the work is completed and people become used to the layout, everything will be fine. In the meantime, we all have to take care.

"The Highways staff have assured me that they are investigating the situation and will make any necessary improvements to the warning signs and place additional bollards, if appropriate."

Dog of the Week

Dog of the Week at Dogs Trust, Bridgend is a beautiful German Shepherd called Ice, who is is six years old, loves to play with other dogs and enjoys a good game of chase.

Ice loves her treats and toys. She does rely on the confidence of other dogs, so she has to live with another dog already in the home and she can also live with children over 11 years old.

If you are interested in Ice, call the Dogs Trust rehoming centre on 01656 725219/

Barry RTC

POLICE attended a road traffic collision involving a vehicle and a child on Gladstone Road, Barry, on Friday, January 27

Officers were called to the collision, which occurred near Gladstone Primary School, at approximately 3.35pm.

The boy was taken to the University Hospital of Wales. His injuries were not thought to be life-threatening.

The road was closed to the junction with Buttrills Road while officers investigated the incident.

PACT meetings

***GIBBONSDOWN** – meet your local neighbourhood team at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.*

***COURT PACT** at the Witchell Community Centre, Dyfan Road, Barry, on Thursday, February 16 at 6.30pm.*

WELSH CHAT

MENTER bro Morgannwg will be holding a 'Dysgu a Diod' – 'A drink and learn' evening on the first Monday of the month, 7pm–8pm, at The Old White Hart in Llantwit Major – an informal get together to chat comfortably in Welsh.

Your Sunday Lunch Guide & Valentine's Experience

Enjoy your time with family & friends

Eating out in fine style around the Vale and Bridgend

AS we head into February, generally a cold and miserable month, there is at least one consolation – an extra reason for dining out.

On top of birthday treats, and good old family Sunday lunches, there is also Valentine's Day!

Even better, here in the Vale and in Bridgend county borough, there are just so many different places to eat – and so many different styles of cooking to choose from.

After all, there can be few places as cosy and comforting as a country inn on a cold night in February, sitting in front of a real fire, as you browse the menu, and then settling down for a great meal.

The same goes for Sunday lunch.

Traditional British food doesn't sit high on the haute cuisine league table, but it is noticeable that many trendy Continental restaurants include the option of a traditional roast.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

THE FOX AND HOUNDS, LLANCARFAN
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Back to it's Best!
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Starters & desserts from £2.95.
A vegetarian version is also available along with some non-roast alternatives & a varied children's menu.
Join us for lunch Monday to Saturday with our
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We have
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CURRY NIGHT THURSDAY 6-9pm - £2 off our usual wide selection of home made curries with rice, chips, poppadoms & mango chutney.
FRIDAY FISH NIGHT - battered haddock with hand cut chips and mushy peas for £7.95.

Book early for VALENTINE'S DAY February 14th
Free glass of bubbly for everyone ordering three courses from our main menu or Valentine's special board.
Don't miss our hugely popular WEDNESDAY NIGHT QUIZ from 8.30pm.
Bring your smartphone or tablet to join in and see what everyone's talking about.
LIVE MUSIC every Saturday Night (and Friday from March)
Come & support Wales in their SIX NATIONS challenges. We are showing all the games on our new bigger screens.

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Your Sunday Lunch Guide & Valentine's Experience

Enjoy your time with family & friends

February needn't be grey – there's an extra reason to relish a gourmet meal!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24)

It might be Mediterranean dishes for six days, but they know which side their bread is buttered when Sunday comes around!

What is more, the law of competition and survival of the fittest ensures that standards stay high.

Restaurateurs will pitch menus at different niches in the market, from *cordon bleu* to wholesome, but at a time of austerity, each knows they must deliver the goods, or diners will just go elsewhere.

Of course, adding Valentine's Day to the mix gives an extra reason to eat out, but it can be a nervous time for both men and women – because an all-important choice has to be made – how to celebrate in style?

It is a relatively easy decision for some – in particular, a couple who have an established relationship, with several years under their belts.

By now (*touch wood!*) they should know what works for them. They will have made a few mistakes and can, all being well, look back and smile...

For the newer relationship, however, it is a little like putting on a blindfold and setting off into a minefield!

In theory, in these modern times of gender equality, a couple should be able to arrive at a joint decision, but life is rarely that simple!

By a process that is hard to quantify, one half of the duo will generally end up making the choice.

It will be 'his choice' – or 'her choice' – and he or she will have to face the music afterwards!

After all, that perfect Valentine's experience need not be an intimate setting in the country.

In towns such as Barry, Cowbridge, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Bridgend or Porthcawl, there are a wealth of venues.

You can choose a smart brasserie, or tapas, or take your choice from a huge range of national cuisines.

The days when the 'exotic' choice was Italian, Indian or Chinese are long gone!

Town-based restaurants, of course, offer the added attraction of extending the evening by heading for a popular nightspot.

Some couples may push the boat out and dine in a smart restaurant, where they can enjoy a leisurely meal before retiring to a pre-booked hotel.

People may go on (and on) about the good old days, but when it comes to eating out, surely we are in the good old days now.

Chefs are more ambitious, diners are more discerning, standards are higher, variety has never been so great.

February may be a grey month, but a great dining experience can bring a splash of vivid colour to those 28 days!

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Food served EVERY day and evening
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February Offers

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5oz Gammon Steak
Chicken Curry, Rice & Chips
Deep Fried White Bait
Breaded Deep Fried Brie
Roast of the Day
6oz Ribeye Steak (£2 extra)
2 for £12 (£6.99 for 1)
Add a dessert for £2.50
Lighter Lunch Menu from £4.99

Monday-Saturday (Main Menu)
2 Course Menu - £12.99
3 Course Menu - £14.99
Back by popular demand
Monday - PIE NIGHT
Tuesday - CURRY NIGHT
Wednesday - STEAK NIGHT
Thursday - BURGER NIGHT
Friday - FISH NIGHT
FREE DRINK or FREE DESSERT!

Sunday Lunch

Local Meats Carved
Leg of Lamb
Sirloin of Beef
Loin of Pork
Free Range Chicken
All served with peas, chunky carrots, vegetables of the day, roast potatoes, roast parsnips, boiled new potatoes, stuffing and Yorkshire pudding.
Adults £9.99 • Children £5.00
Combination 2 Meats £11.99
Desserts 2 for £7
Add Cauliflower Cheese to share

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2 Courses £13.95
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25% off (food only)
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Cream of Tomato Soup - **£4**
Venison & Chilli Pate - **£5.95**
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★★★ **MAINS** ★★★
Fillet of Local Beef - **£22.95**
Rump of Welsh Lamb - **£14.95**
Asparagus Stuffed Chicken Breast - **£9.95**
Tuna Steak - **£10.75**
Sweet Potato & Chestnut Loaf - **£9.95 (V)**

★★★ **DESSERTS** ★★★
Chocolate Dipped Strawberries - **£4.25**
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White Chocolate & Raspberry Trifle - **£5.75**
(Pre-order only.)

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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/00639/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed demolition of substandard bungalow and construction of 2 No. 4 bedroom dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad: Kia Ora, 2, Cold Knap Way, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth Barry (Marine)

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01031/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Renew existing slate roof. Repair of four stone chimney stacks. Renew lead flashing, valleys etc. Repair existing guttering. Renew fascia. Roof timber repair where required. Repointing of stonework
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Swan, Public House, Church Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II*

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01394/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of existing out houses and construction of a single storey two bedroom extension
Location:/Lleoliad: Cottrell Lodge, St Nicholas
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01503/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Scheme of programmable multi colour LED lighting
Location:/Lleoliad: Western Shelter, Paget Road, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2017/00022/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Removal of asbestos roof. Upper section front brick wall of the back porch removed. Replacement of concrete lintels
Location:/Lleoliad: Nicells, Swanbridge Road, Sully
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01520/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development of up to 190 units with associated access and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land West of Swanbridge Road, Sully
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Cog House (formerly Cog Farm including buildings and eight Rickstands, Grade II, planned group of farm buildings at Cog Farm, Grade II and Nicells, Swanbridge Road, Sully, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01501/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed additonal guest accommodation (27 bedrooms)
Location:/Lleoliad: Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01520/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development of up to 190 units with associated access and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land West of Swanbridge Road, Sully

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2016/01492/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed change of use and conversion of existing outbuilding to forms 2 self-contained holiday properties with onsite parking
Location:/Lleoliad: The Dales, Little Brynhill Lane, Barry

Departure from Development Plan/ Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2016/01520/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Residential development of up to 190 units with associated access and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Land West of Swanbridge Road, Sully

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 2 February, 2017

V. L. Robinson, Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Support for young carers

EVERY day at least 195,000 children across the UK sacrifice their time to take care of loved ones at home.

While their peers are out playing and having fun being children, they're busy providing physical and emotional support to a family member.

Finding time to do their homework alongside household chores, such as cooking and cleaning can be difficult, and some also have to help manage the family's bills.

Unsurprisingly, many of these children and young people are deeply affected by their role and struggle to juggle their education and caring responsibilities.

More than half of young carers' parents say their children have missed school. They're also more likely to suffer from mental health issues and report having trouble making friends at school.

At Barnardo's, we give these children and young people the support they need through our young carers' services so they realise they're not alone.

Here they meet other young people in the same situation as themselves, get the professional support they need, and have a precious few hours every week to enjoy being children again.

We let them know they don't have to cope with the pressures of a caring role on their own. This is crucial as we believe children should never be in a situation where they're unsupported and overwhelmed.

Shaquille is one of nearly 4,000 young carers supported by Barnardo's. He has been looking after his mum since he was 14.

His mum has a number of health conditions including diabetes, arthritis, a heart murmur and suffers from depression and anxiety. Clearly a lot for anyone to cope with.

The amount of work Shaquille has to do all depends on how his mum is feeling. He'll often cook and clean the house, or he might do the food shopping because her anxiety is so bad she can't leave the house.

His advice to other young carers is "Don't be afraid to ask for support and talk to someone you trust like a teacher.

"Even if it's a few hours to spend with other young carers, a day out or a trip to the cinema, you will benefit from it."

Government policy changes in recent years have been a step in the right direction putting a focus on identification of young carers so they can get help from social services and charities like Barnardo's.

Too many are still slipping through the net. This must change and every young carer must be assessed by councils so they can get the support they need.

No child should ever have to cope alone.

Javed Khan, Chief Executive, Barnardo's.

Charlie needs a good home

THE Cats Adoption Centre in Bryncethin is looking for loving homes for its feline guests.

Today, they would like to introduce GEM readers to Charlie.

"Hello, I'm Charlie! I came into the centre as my owner became too unwell to look after me.

"I am a sweet cuddly boy who loves to cwtch! I would love a nice quiet home where I can be spoilt rotten. Can you give me the home I'm looking for?"

You can contact the centre on email: bridgend@cats.org.uk or by telephone: 01656 724396.

For the latest stories and breaking news...
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Welsh alumni inspire state students to academic success

VALE sixth formers are to be helped to win places at top UK universities under a nationwide programme designed to boost Welsh state students' academic potential.

The programme will harness the skills and experience of former students to inspire and support the high achievers of the current generation to gain places at Russell Group universities across Britain.

The initiative will be run by the education charity Future First and is commissioned by the Welsh government. The partnership will be the start of a national culture of Welsh university alumni engagement enabling Welsh schools to build sustainable long term networks of professionals in a range of careers.

Future First will work with the Seren network's regional hubs linking Welsh alumni from prestigious UK universities with state school students in their home regions.

The former students will volunteer in schools alongside teachers and careers staff by acting as career and education role models, motivational speakers and mentors.

Future First will train hub co-ordinators on how to build and engage a 'former student network', support hubs to trace alumni and maximise their impact and run assemblies and workshops with former students.

The initiative builds on Future First's work in more than 400 state secondaries across the UK enabling schools to harness the untapped experience and skills of alumni and encourage students to understand the relevance of their studies to their future working life

Future First research makes the claim that alumni are vital in motivating students to succeed with 75 per cent of students hearing from alumni at Future First events saying they are immediately inspired to work harder in school.

Christine Gilbert, executive chair of Future First and a former Ofsted Chief Inspector, said there was a huge need to support state educated students to achieve their potential.

"Every state school student should have the opportunity to succeed in the world of work, regardless of their background.

"Our work with the Seren network will enable schools to harness the skills and experience of alumni as role models who inspire and motivate current students.

"If students see 'people like me' have succeeded, they are more likely to believe they can too. They work harder and have higher expectations of success."

Nisha Shukla, youth engagement and progression officer at the Vale Council, said: "Working with Future First is an excellent catalyst to start building on the existing alumni connections in the Vale to one central point for all sixth form schools to access.

"It is important that we track the journey of our students once they leave sixth form schools to go on to leading Universities, moving into chosen professions thereafter and become positive role models for our future students."

The Vale of Glamorgan regional hub wants to hear from alumni of top UK universities who grew up in the region on *http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/seren*.

The hub is made up of the following partner senior schools and colleges: Barry, Bryn Hafren, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, St Cyres, Stanwell,Ysgol Bro Morgannwg and Cardiff and Vale College.

Wales football boss is there for Bobath

WALES football manager Chris Coleman is celebrating St David's Day by taking part in a special fundraising event for Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales.

'An Evening with Chris Coleman' will be a sporting occasion full of chat, gossip and all things football, hosted by TV and radio presenter Frances Donovan at the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff, at 7pm.

Guests will be welcomed by a male voice choir while enjoying a glass of champagne, followed at half time by a three-course meal, raffle and auction.

To buy your tickets (£50 per person) telephone the Bobath fundraising team on 02920 522600 or by going to *www.bobathwales.org/events/2017/03/01/an-evening-with-chris-coleman/*

Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales provides specialist therapy to children in Wales who have cerebral palsy, and this year the charity is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Gail Griffiths, head of fundraising at the charity said: "We are thrilled that Chris and Frances are supporting us at this special St David's Day fundraising event. We've already had lots of interest and I know it's going to be an amazing night.

Penarth church hosts GVS meeting

THE next meeting of Glamorgan Voluntary Services' Vale Voluntary Action and Community Development Network (VVACDN) will be held on Tuesday, February 14, from 10am to 12 noon at Elfed Avenue United Church, Penarth.

Three speakers have been confirmed: Dr David Trotman, chair of Woody's Lodge Management Board, who will provide information about the Armed Forces Veterans Communications and Social Hub that is being developed at *HMS Cambria*, Sully.

The Hub is named after Paul 'Woody' Woodland, a local Royal Marine, who died during a training exercise in 2012.

Also, Daniel St John, Nest Partnership development officer will give an update about the Welsh Government Warm Homes Nest Scheme, which helps reduce the number of households in Wales struggling to keep their homes warm and cope with high energy bills.

Mike Holmes, from Coastlands Family Church, will talk about their projects and work in the community.

Anyone who would like to attend, can contact Dave Edwards on 01446 741706, email: dave@gvs.wales or see www.gvs.wales.

Foster a four-legged friend

Mary Gunn with one of her previous foster dogs, Boo.

A NEW survey reveals that nearly 56 per cent of people in Wales admitted to feeling lonely at some point during the course of 2016; but the good news for dog owners is that their four-legged friends can help – with 91 per cent asked saying it made them happier, and 89 per cent said their dog made them less lonely.

With the depressing winter months still in full swing, a Dogs Trust spokesperson says it is encouraging the public to consider fostering a dog on a temporary basis with a 'Home From Home' scheme, launched this week.

The mutually beneficial nationwide scheme looks to find loving temporary foster homes for the thousands of dogs in care, and not only does it help get homeless dogs ready for the loving homes they deserve, but it's very rewarding for the fosters carers too with 70 per cent people surveyed admitting caring for a dog has a positive impact upon their wellbeing.

Alison Creaton, Home From Home co-ordinator at Dogs Trust Bridgend, said: "We have thousands of dogs of all shapes and sizes across our 20 rehoming centres in the UK looking for temporary carers, varying from older dogs who need some extra TLC, litters of puppies, dogs recovering from illness and those who simply cope better in a home environment.

"Dogs Trust covers all fees and foster carers can go on to adopt their foster dog permanently should they wish. The average stay for a dog in a foster home is three to four weeks, although some dogs can be fostered for up to eight months and some for just a weekend."

Ysgol Gyfun's double home success in Barry Rotary Youth Speaks

Rotary president Carl Kerr with winning senior team, left to right: Elin Alexander, Nia Brown and Tirion Davies.

ON Monday, January 23 the Rotary Club of Barry held the first round of the Rotary Youths Speaks competition, one of several competitions organised by the Rotary movement specifically designed to develop students' skills.

The event was held in Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry.

Winners in the intermediate section (11 – 13-year-olds) were the team from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, whose chosen topic was *'Is Social Media a Blessing or a Curse?'* Chairperson was Megan Leonard, speaker was Sara Jones and the vote of thanks was given by Fflur Bowen.

In the senior section (14 – 18-year-olds), the team from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg were also the winners.

Their team was chaired by Tirion Davies, their speaker was Nia Brown and their vote of thanks was given by Elin Alexander. The team's chosen topic was *'Is Modern Education Destructive?'*

In line with national rules, team speakers had to answer a question from the audience to show their understanding of their chosen topic. The judges were retired headteacher Eleri Hourahane, associate Rotary member Beth Longley, and Audrey Hirst from the Barry Soroptimists.

Speaking on behalf of the judges, Beth Longley congratulated all participants, saying that they had set some very high standards.

President of Barry Rotary Club, Carl Kerr thanked Rotarian Ann Harrhy, who had co-ordinated the event and everyone who had supported the competition and wished the winning teams every success in the next round to be held in Cardiff Golf Club.

Rotary has 1.2million members (men and women) worldwide who form a global network.

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Glenbrook Inn on Thursdays at 6pm for 6.30pm. If you would like further information, speak to club secretary Phil Hunt on 01446 720000, or look online at www.ribi.org.

The winning intermediate team, left to right: Fflur Bowen, Sara Jones and Megan Leonard.

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homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

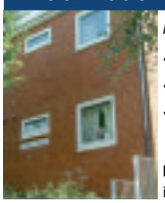
To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Environment and Housing
Civic Offices, Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 8 FEBRUARY 2017

All Homes4U properties have double glazing and central heating unless otherwise stated and will be allocated to the maximum occupancy.

It may take longer to rehouse you if you are awarded medical priority as there is a shortage of accessible and adapted homes in the Vale.

AVOCET COURT, BARRY



H4U Reference 1025689
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Level access shower

Rent £87.55 per week including service charges

BUTTLEE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 110207
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor

Rent £89.15 per week

CAMMS CORNER, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 251788
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor (no lift)

Rent £97.17 per week including water charges

DUDLEY PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 207763
55+
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Steps down
- Wet room
- Community alarm

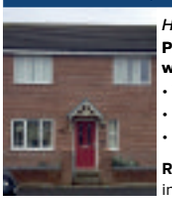
Rent £98.62 per week including alarm and water charges

ELFED WAY, BARRY

H4U Reference 208963
55+ Preference to applicants with a medical priority
- One-bedroom bungalow
- Level access shower
- Community alarm

Rent £98.61 per week including alarm and water charges

FFORDD ELIN, BARRY



H4U Reference 1079863
Priority to applicants requiring wheelchair accessible accommodation
- Two-bedroom house
- Stairlift and level access shower
- Parking and door entry system

Rent £104.32 per week including service charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 982571
55+ (50 with medical need)
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Alarm system

Rent £105.79 per week

IRVING PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 213188
Sensitive let
- Two bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)

Rent £91.59 per week including water charges

MARINERS WAY, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 1116809
Preference to applicants with a medical priority
- Two-bedroom house
- Stairlift
- Wet room

Rent £102.81 per week

PARKLAND WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 219364
55+ Preference to applicants with a medical priority
- One-bedroom ground floor flat
- Level access shower
- Community alarm

Rent £100.17 per week including alarm and water charges

REDLANDS AVENUE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 243614
60+
- One-bedroom ground floor flat
- Level access shower
- Warden and alarm

Rent £115.15 per week including alarm and water charges

SEVERN AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 222658
55+
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Level access shower

Rent £98.85 per week including alarm and water charges

Visit the HOMES4U web page to view homes available immediately
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

No pets

Vale of Glamorgan Council | Hafod Housing Association | Newydd Housing Association | United Welsh | Wales and West Housing Association

ST GOVANS, BARRY

H4U Reference 224993
55+
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor (no lift)
- Community alarm

Rent £91.47 per week including alarm and water charges

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of the rented homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference.

All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

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Expressions of interest

ST JOHNS VIEW, WELL WALK, ST ATHAN

United Welsh Housing Association, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, announce the new development at St Johns View, Well Walk, St Athan.

All properties have a wet room downstairs with a family bathroom upstairs. Properties are expected to be ready to let April 2017.

- One, three-bedroom house
  Rent £104.76 per week including service charge
- Two, two-bedroom houses
  Rent £103.11 per week including service charge
- One, four-bedroom house
  Rent £123.80 per week including service charge

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 8 FEBRUARY 2017

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or apply in writing to: Vale of Glamorgan Council, Environment and Housing, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU

See our main advert for full details and more homes

SULLY ROAD, PENARTH

United Welsh Housing Association, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, announce the new development at 'Sully Road' new development site Rhodfa'r Morwydd, Penarth.

The properties are expected to be ready to let during April or May 2017.

- Two, two-bedroom houses
  Rent £99.61, plus service charge to be confirmed
- Two, three-bedroom houses
  Rent £101.26, plus service charge to be confirmed
- One, four bedroom house
  Rent £120.30, plus service charge to be confirmed
- Two, one-bedroom bed flats (one ground, one first floor) with a bath and overhead shower
  Rent £78.64, plus service charge to be confirmed

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BADGERS BROOK RISE, YSTRADOWEN

- **One, two-bedroom mid link house for sale £126,000*** (*70% of market value)
- **Two, two-bedroom end link houses for sale £129,500*** (*70% of market value)

United Welsh Housing Association in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council has three, new two-bedroom homes for sale, available at Badgers Brook Rise, Ystradowen.

The open market value of these homes starts from £180,000 and United Welsh are selling 70% of this, which is £126,000.

Priority will be given to people with a local connection, but we welcome applications from people who live and / or work in the Vale.

Eligibility criteria apply.

Second stage applications are now welcomed and should be submitted before 9 February 2017.

CROMPTON WAY, OGMORE-BY-SEA

- **Five, two-bedroom semi-detached houses for sale £115,500*** (*70% of market value)

United Welsh Housing Association in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council has five , new two bedroom homes for sale, available at Crompton Way, Ogmore by Sea.

The open market value of the home is £165,000 and United Welsh are selling 70% of this which is £115,500.

Priority will be given to people with a local connection, but we welcome applications from people who live and / or work in the Vale or Bridgend areas. Eligibility criteria apply.

CWRT MAES DYFAN, BARRY

One, two-bedroom mid link house for sale £92,400* (*75% of market value)

United Welsh Housing Association in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council has one, new two bedroom home for sale, available at Cwrt Maes Dyfan, Barry.

The open market value of this home is £122,000 and United Welsh are selling 75% of this which is £92,400.

Eligibility criteria apply.

GWERN CLOSE, WENVOE

Two, two-bedroom mid link houses for sale £119,000* (*70% of market value)

United Welsh Housing Association in partnership with the Vale of Glamorgan Council has two new two-bedroom homes for sale, available at Gwern Close, Wenvoe.

The open market value of the home is £170,000 and United Welsh are selling 70% of this which is £119,000.

Priority will be given to people with a local connection, but we welcome applications from people who live and / or work in the Vale.

Eligibility criteria apply.

For further information and application forms, contact Aspire2Own at Vale of Glamorgan Council
Telephone: 01446 709 237 E-mail: housingstrategy@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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- Stunning four bedroom barn conversion, 3 luxury bathrooms.
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EPC - D

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NEW

Lime Tree Cottage, Colwinston Cowbridge

- Located in the heart of Colwinston.
- Five bedrooms, two en-suites.
- Open-plan kitchen/dining room.
- Garden room & Double Garage.
- 2235 sq ft over three storeys.

EPC - D

£550,000

NEW

Pine Lodge, Graig Penllyn Cowbridge

- Large five bedroom with delightful elevated views.
- 21 FT Lounge, 16 FT dining room, 16 FT study/home office.
- Three modern bathrooms, 21 FT kitchen/breakfast room.
- Utility room, Cowbridge school catchment.
- No Chain.

EPC - D

£499,999

NEW

Tudor Lodge, Talygarn Pontyclun

- Unique six bedroom stylish residence.
- Large and lovely level landscaped gardens.
- Four living rooms, cloak room, 18FT kitchen/breakfast room.
- Three bathrooms, double garage.
- Views across to green fields.

EPC - D

£650,000

SSTC

12 Downs View Cowbridge
Vale of Glamorgan

- Less than 2 miles to Town Centre & walking distance to Cowbridge Comp.
- 3 generous bedrooms.
- 2 reception rooms & conservatory.
- Generous rear garden backing onto countryside.
- Parking for several cars, NO CHAIN.

EPC - D £299,950

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£595,000

GERAINTS WAY, COWBRIDGE
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BEDFORD HOUSE, CEFN CRIBWR
NEW

- Set in c.3.5 acres
- 5 bedrooms
- 5 reception rooms
- Private setting

£725,000

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NEW

- 5 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Double garage
- Private parking

£410,000

WEST WINDS, PEN-Y-FAI
NEW PRICE

- Extended 4 bedroom property
- Secluded location
- 1.1 acres in total
- 3 garages

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RE-AVAILABLE

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- 3 ensuites
- 3 reception rooms
- Double garage

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OLD FORGE, BONVILSTON

- 4 large bedrooms
- 4 reception rooms
- Double garage
- Stunning views

£650,000

THE GRANARY, BONVILSTON
OPEN TO OFFERS

- 5 bedrooms
- Under floor heating
- Annexe potential
- Double garage

£650,000

LLYS TRE DRW, BRIDGEND

- Detached property
- 3 bedrooms
- Private parking
- Under 10 years NHBC warranty

£169,950

THE SYCAMORES, LLYSWORNEY

- Detached character cottage
- 4 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Large gardens

£465,000

37 HIGH STREET, LALESTON

- Private parking to rear
- 3 bedroom
- Modern interior
- Charm and character

£240,000

EWENNY ROAD, BRIDGEND

- Bay fronted semi detached property
- 3 bedrooms
- 2 reception rooms
- Extended and improved

£215,000

HENDRE, COLWINSTON

- 5 bedrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- Double garage
- South facing gardens

£595,000

THE MEADOWS, CORNTOWN

- 3 bedrooms
- Semi detached property
- Cul de sac position
- Conservatory

£210,000

BROOKFIELD ROAD, MAESTEG

- 3 bedrooms
- Conservatory extension
- Under floor heating
- Private parking

£125,000

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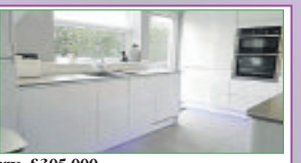
Three bedroom detached chalet bungalow. Cloakroom. Lounge. Dining room. Kitchen. Bathroom. DG. GCH. Enclosed gardens front and rear. Driveway. Garage. offered for sale with no chain.

FOR SALE



Well Walk, Barry- £305,000
Three bedroom semi detached comprising; Entrance Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Fitted kitchen. Downstairs w/c. Conservatory. Family bathroom. Driveway for two vehicles. Well presented and set in the highly sought after Knap location.

FOR SALE

Earl Crescent, Barry - £139,950
Three bedroom end link property. Entrance porch. Open plan living room. Kitchen. Bathroom with separate w/c. Enclosed rear garden. Property benefiting from UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. EPC rating: E.

FOR SALE

Romilly Park Road - £390,000
Five bedroom semi. Entrance porch. Hallway. Three reception rooms. En suite, shower room and family bathroom. Loft space. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed gardens.

FOR SALE

Colcot Road, Barry- £344,950
Extended, Spacious and beautifully presented three double bedroom detached residence. Architectural plans for a double storey extension. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge. Family room. Kitchen with integral dishwasher and washer/dryer. Dining room. Shower room, family bathroom to first floor. Boarded attic space. GCI, UPVC. Large garden, driveway, garage. EPC - D.

FOR SALE

Coronation Street, Barry - £112,950
Two bedroom mid terrace property. Two reception rooms. Extended kitchen/dining room. Bathroom to first floor. Enclosed, south facing garden. EPC rating: C. Ideal first time buy or investment property.

FOR SALE

Curnix Barn, Moulton - £475,000
Four bedroom barn conversion with two pony paddocks. Planning consent to extend. Approx set in one and a half acres. Reception hall. Open plan living accommodation. Wet room. Utility room. Master bedroom. Family bathroom. DG. LPG GCH. No chain.

FOR SALE

Nant Talwg Way, Barry- £299,950
Four bedroom detached. Hallway. Lounge open to dining room. Downstairs w/c. Fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. Family bathroom. Shower room. GCH. UPVC DG. Enclosed rear garden. Front garden with driveway. Garage with utility area, and remote door. EPC rating- D.

FOR SALE

Lavernock Point - £26,000
Two bedroom holiday chalet. Located in the popular Marconi Holiday Village. Open kitchen/living area, modern bathroom. Combi boiler. Paved area to front. Shared facilities swimming pool, children's pool and playground. No chain.

FOR SALE

Rhodfa Sweldon, Barry - £220,000
Three storey town house. Shower room. Utility room and bedroom three to ground floor. Living room and kitchen/dining room and two en suite bedrooms to second floor. GCH/UPVC DG. Rear garden. Off road parking for three vehicles. Integral garage.

FOR SALE

Lakeside, Barry- £425,000
Four bedroom semi detached residence situated on the Knap. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge/dining room. Family room. Conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast room. Family bathroom. UPVC DG and GCH. Enclosed garden to front and courtyard garden to rear. Small driveway and secure carport.

FOR SALE

Meadow Vale, Barry - £139,950
Three bedroom mid link property. Entrance porch. Living room. Modern kitchen/dining room. White bathroom suite. UPVC DG. GCH. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway and additional parking space nearby. EPC rating: C.

FOR SALE

Cledwen Close, Barry - £211,950
Well presented three bedroom semi. Entrance porch. Hallway. Through lounge/dining room. Modern fitted kitchen. Conservatory. Breakfast room/office. Utility room. Modern white bathroom suite. UPVC DG and GCH. Off road parking. Garage. EPC rating: D.

FOR SALE

Fontygary Road, Rhoose- £249,950
Three double bedroom semi detached. Lounge. Dining room. Modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Study. Downstairs cloakroom. Bathroom and separate w/c. UPVC DG. GCH. Gardens to front and rear. Driveway up to five vehicles. Detached single garage. No chain.

FOR SALE

St Pauls Avenue, Barry - £159,950
Four bedroom bay fronted terrace property. Entrance hallway. Lounge. Kitchen/dining room. Family bathroom. Bedroom four with en suite w/c. UPVC DG. GCH. Basement room. Rear garden. EPC rating: D.

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12 York Place - £12,000 Per Annum
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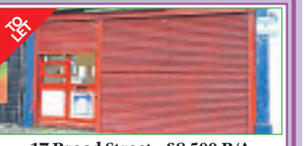
TO LET



17 Broad Street - £8,500 P/A
Large main retail area, rear storage rooms/office, basement, kitchen and toilets. Possible change of use to A3.

TO LET

Holton Road, Barry - £8,000 P/A
Shop, ground floor and basement, situated on the west end side of the busy thoroughfare of Holton Road. Flexible terms. Strictly by appointment with Knights Estate Agents.

FOR SALE

Unit 15 Palmers Vale Business centre - £365,000
The property is located on a secure multi-unit business centre, in easy access to Cardiff and M4 corridor. Internal area 6,000 SQ FT (557.5 sq m) with a large surfaced concrete yard that is fully enclosed with palisade fencing and two entrances. Unit comprises of internal offices and a large warehouse space.

TO LET

Holton Road, Barry - £16,000 P/A
An opportunity to lease a large ground floor shop with basement in excellent order. Access to rear. The property would suit a multitude of purposes being well situated in Holton Road.

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Vere Street, Barry - £600 Per CM
Two bedroom luxury apartment, Refurbished to a high standard, Ground floor, Open plan living area, Fitted kitchen with appliances, Bathroom with shower attachment, Gas central heating, Double glazed, Close to the train station, Communal court yard.

Windsor Road, Barry - £900 Per CM
Six bedroom mid terrace house, Unfurnished, Two reception rooms, Fitted kitchen with oven and hob, Utility room, Downstairs cloakroom, Bathroom with separate shower, Gas central heating, Rear enclosed garden, Very close to the train station.

Bell Street, Barry - £625 Per CM
Three bedroom mid terrace house, Unfurnished, Through living room/dining room, Fitted kitchen with oven and hob, Upstairs bathroom, Gas central heating, Double glazed, Enclosed rear garden, Close to Romilly School, Easy access to the train station.

Glan-Y-Mor, Y Rhodfa, Barry - £650 Per CM
Two bedroom unfurnished apartment, Unfurnished, Good size living room, Fitted kitchen with oven and hob, Family bathroom with shower, En suite shower room, Gas central heating, Balcony overlooking the Waterfront, Close the train station, Allocated parking space.

Aeron Close, Barry - £675 Per CM
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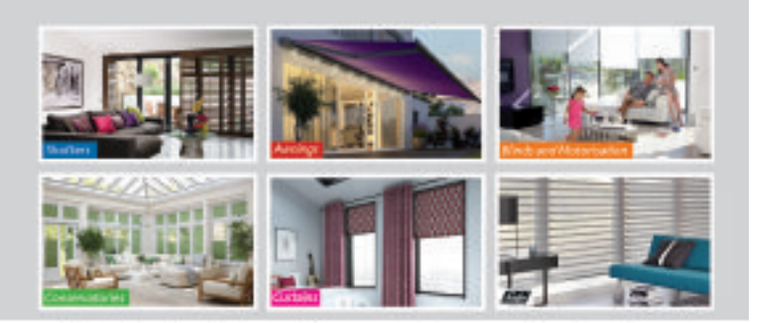

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Family Notices

JENKINS
John Henley Fisher

Peacefully at home in Bridgend on January 19, aged 80 years. Much loved brother of Colin, Mary and the late Henley and their families. Fondly remembered by his nephews and nieces.

Funeral service to take place at St Illtyd's Church, Newcastle, Bridgend on Wednesday, February 8 at 1pm, followed by interment at Bridgend Cemetery at 2pm. Family flowers only.

Enquiries to JR & MF David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, telephone 01656 880308.

EVANS
Jean ***(née Lambert)***

Peacefully at home on January 27, 2017 with her daughter present, Jean, aged 87 years. Beloved wife of the late Leslie, much loved mum of Linda, Chris and daughter-in-law Gail. Adoring grandmother of Lee and Anton, great grandmother of Luke, Jamey and Lexie and great great grandmother of James, Ethan and Oliver, sadly missed by her sister Edith.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the funeral service in the Chapel of Rest on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 12 noon, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. *Family flowers only.*

GODDARD
David

(1971 – 2017)

Following the tragic death of David in Ecuador, his funeral for family and friends will take place at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Monday, February 6, at 12 noon, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only.

A service of thanksgiving will be held in the summer to celebrate his life.

WILLIAMS
Violet (Vi)

Peacefully on 20th January in Llandough Hospital, Vi, aged 92 years, of Barry. Devoted wife of the late Ken, adored mum to Dale, Deanne and Phil. Much loved mother-in-law to David, Alan and Chris. A cherished nan and great grandmother to her 7 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She will be forever missed and never forgotten xxx.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until the service in St John Baptist Church Sully on Wednesday, 8th February at 11.45am, afterwards to Barry Crematorium. Family flowers only please. Donations, if wished, for the British Heart Foundation c/o the funeral home.

FREDERICK
Kathleen

Passed away peacefully after a long illness at Llandough Hospital on Saturday, January 21. Beloved mother of Hilary, Kelvin and Sharon. Loving grandmother and great grandmother.

Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday, February 7, at 11am. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to East Ward 18, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, Cardiff.

ROWLEY
Ivy (Née Turner)

Suddenly but peacefully on 27th January at University Hospital Wales, Cardiff, Ivy, aged 106 years, of Barry. Beloved wife of the late William, previously Roy. Mother of Alan, Kimber and the late Gareth.

Ivy will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry where flowers may be sent until the funeral on Tuesday, 7th February. Service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet at 3pm.

Alan wishes to thank all the staff at Orchard House and Park Road for the wonderful care given to Ivy.

JONES
Beryl

On January 27 at Albert Edward Prince of Wales Residential Home, Porthcawl, Beryl, aged 95 years, of Cowbridge. Beloved wife of the late Emrys (Maesteg).

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral strictly private.

WHITE
William (Bill)

Peacefully at home on January 22nd - Bill, beloved husband to the late Daphne, much loved dad of Debbie, Ian and their families, loving brother to Ron.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

'Reunited with Daphne'

Bill is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until his service at Barry Cemetery Chapel on Friday, 10th February at 1.15pm, followed by interment. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Bill's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you may also leave your personal messages and memories.

All donations to support The RAF Benevolent Fund in memory of Bill.

STANLEY
Grace

Peacefully on January 20 at Bellavista Nursing Home, Cardiff, Grace, formerly of Llantwit Major. Beloved wife of Dick, dearly loved mother of Jean and John, Graham and Jan, much loved by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, February 13, service and cremation 2pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to Alzheimers Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

GIBBONS
Gaynor Alice

Peacefully on 27 January at UHW Cardiff, Gaynor Alice of Jenner Street, Barry. Dearly loved wife of Michael, a loved mother of Jeff, Wayne and mother-in-law of Paula and Jeff's wife, the late Vinda, and also his long term partner Helen. Cherished grandmother and great grandmother. Gaynor will be sadly missed by all of her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Thursday, February 9. Service in the chapel at 1.45pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Cancer Research.

MORRIS
Dennis Lyndon (Den)

Peacefully on January 19th at University Hospital of Wales – Den, a well known entertainer within Barry and the Vale of Glamorgan. Much loved dad to Wayne & Simon.

Den will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until a celebration of Den's life at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Thursday, 9th February at 2pm.

No floral tributes by request. Donations, if desired, may be made via Den's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations to support The Alzheimer's Society in memory of Den.

Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

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Family Notices

MORRIS
Den

Suddenly passed away and taken away from us, but at rest with his beloved and adored wife Jane.

Much loved stepdad to Dawn, James and grandfather to Morgan, Bethan and Ciaran.

You will always be in our hearts but you are now back with mum.

LLOYD
Michael George

Peacefully on 20 January 2017 at Singleton Hospital, Michael of Llantwit Major (retired B.T. Engineer).

Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, College St, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St.Illtud's Church on Tuesday, 7th February at 2pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetery. Flowers, or donations to Cancer Research UK, may be sent to the Funeral Home (cheques only for donations).

ALLEN
Elizabeth Epton

Peacefully on January 20 at Milsom House, St Athan, Betty of East Abethaw. Beloved wife of the late Arthur (formerly of Rhoose Service Station), will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday, February 8, service 1pm at Penmark Church, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 2pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to Ty Hafan Childrens Hospice Wales c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose,Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

MORGAN
Charles Christopher

Peacefully at Llandough Hopsital on 19th January 2017 after a long and prolonged illness, Charles, aged 65 years, formerly of Days Medical Aids, Bridgend. Devoted husband of Marilyn, much loved dad of Gareth and Rhys, also loved by Katie, bampi to Emilia and 'our Charlie' to Cerys and Bethan.

Charles will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Thursday, 9th February 2017 at 12 noon, followed by Committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium. Family cut flowers only. Donations, if so desired, for Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, c/o the funeral director.

In Memory

MORRIS
Dennis

You will always be missed - forever in our hearts.

Your loving sisters, brother and brothers-in law.

NORTHWAY
Bill

February 4th

Three long lonely years without you. Loved and missed more than ever by me and all our family.

Bless you.
Love Eun
xxx

In Memory

NORTHWAY
William Job (Bill)

Passed away 4th February 2014

In our hearts you will always stay, loved and remembered every day.

All our love, Eunice, Jane, Tosh, Esther, Mike, grandchildren and great grandchildren xxx

ANN SUTTON 'SOOTY'

Closed her eyes on the 6th February 2011.

Never to be forgotten, Never to be replaced.

Everyday I think of you even though we are apart, but the love we shared for all those years will always remain in my heart.

Love Ken xx

KAGED
Christine

Never more than a thought away,
Loved and remembered everyday,
Miss you more as time goes by,
Our love for you will ever die.
Loving Husband Nagi and family.
xxxx

Public Notices

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Quality Office Supplies Limited trading as **South Wales Paper Team** of **Anchor Lane, Coseley, Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 9NE** is applying for a licence to use **Unit 63, Vale Business Park, Llandow, CF71 7PF** as an operating centre for **1** goods vehicles and **0** trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern:

I, **Alexander John Howells**, do hereby give notice of an Application to The Vale of Glamorgan Council Licensing Authority for a new Premises Licence at **Hare & Hounds, Maendy Road, Aberthin, CF71 7LG** known as **Hare & Hounds.**

The application is to vary the licence **to allow for supervised children under 16 to be allowed in the public bar area before 9pm. This is partly to allow for families to dine in the bar area, as well as to allow families to sit in the bar area before/after dining in the restaurant area.**

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to The Licensing Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU. Not later than 28 days after the date of this notice (as below).

Representations received after this date will not be considered.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

SIGNED **Alexander John Howells**

DATE **27.01.17**

Birthdays

Happy 18th Birthday

Ewan Andrews

on February 6th

We are all so proud of the charming lad you have turned into!
Lots of love
Mum, up nan and down nan. xx

Ewan Andrews

Happy 18th Birthday!

to our amazing nephew

Lots of love aunty Dic, uncle Jamie, uncle David & aunty Danni, Aneira & Chase xxx

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Birthdays

Happy Birthday on 8th February

GARETH JAMIESON

Love from all your friends at the Gem x

Mary Hemlock

Happy 80th Birthday Mumsie on 5th February

Much love on your very special day.
From Alison, Aaron, Caitlin, Susie, Paul, Paige & Chris xxxxxxx

Birth

Joseph James Clark

Born on 7th January 2017

Welcome to our little man! We love you so much and wish you all the best in the world.

All our love,
Mummy & Daddy, Becki & Edward Clark.

Lost

Missing Dog

Max went missing on his walk at Llandow Industrial Estate on Friday 27th January.

We are desperate to get him back. **If you have seen him, please call Sharon on 07722 427725 or Sally on 07500 774527.**

MISSING

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WHO WILL BECOME THE KINGS OF EUROPE IN THIS YEAR'S SIX NATIONS?

by Don John

THE world's oldest (and, arguably, greatest) rugby tournament kicks off on Saturday, February 4, with Eddie Jones' high-flying England launching their bid for a back-to-back Grand Slam at Twickenham against France, the team they crushed 31-21 to clinch the coveted Six Nations title in Paris last spring.

All told, across the old Home Nations tournament and its successor, the Five Nations (with the advent of France), culminating in the Six Nations – when Italy joined the exclusive northern hemisphere club in 2000 – the English lion has claimed a total of 27 championship wins, with 10 shared.

The Welsh dragon, despite the many dark years when it languished in the international wilderness, is breathing down its old rival's neck, just one behind with 26 championship titles (plus 12 shared) including 12 Grand Slams – the last one in 2013 – having been the first to claim an historic back-to-back Grand Slam in years 1908 /1909 during Welsh rugby's first golden age.

England have won 13 Grand Slams, including (three back-to-backs in seasons 1913 and 14; 1923/24, and 1997/98. The Gallic cockerel has won nine Grand Slams, while second favourites Ireland, who face Scotland on the opening day of the tournament, have won two; but that ultimate prize has so far eluded the Scots (though they had claimed the old Five Nations title three times); and the steadily-improving championship 'minnows', Italy, are also currently empty-handed.

This year, for the first time, the goalposts have been moved in a bid to open up the old tournament, bring it in line with other competitions, and make it a more entertaining, free-scoring spectacle, with a revised scoring system being trialled: four points for a win, two points for a draw, one point for scoring four or more tries, and one point for losing by no more than seven points.

In addition, the Grand Slam winners will be awarded three extra points to avoid risk of any anomaly by ensuring they top the results table at tournament's end.

Hopefully, the experiment will achieve the desired aim, but whether it has a game-changing effect on the final outcome remains to be seen, with many pundits already anticipating a straight shoot-out between England and Ireland in a Six Nations title showdown at Twickenham on March 18.

There is, though, a lot of water to flow under the bridge before then, and the still-smarting, ever-unpredictable French will be aiming to torpedo that expected scenario by sinking their old enemy at Twickenham – on the same opening day that the resurgent Scots aim to dash the smile from Irish eyes at Murrayfield.

…And none of them, of course, can afford to discount the red dragon's challenge, for caretaker head coach Robert Howley's Welsh camp will have points to prove – in more ways than one.

It all promises to be another enthralling Six Nations contest, with final placings key to the May draw for the 2019 Rugby World Cup – and there is the added lure of a Lions' tour to New Zealand in the offing!

PENARTH HOCKEY CLUB NEWS ROUND-UP

WHILE Penarth Hockey Club's promotion bid continued on two fronts last Saturday, there was also the minor distraction of chasing a place in Europe to consider over the weekend.

Penarth travelled to Merthyr on Sunday for the culmination of the Welsh Indoor Hockey season, and were extremely unlucky not to come away as national champions.

Following relatively easy wins against inexperienced sides from Gwent (15-0) and Swansea University (8-1), the Bears renewed old rivalries with 2016 runners-up Swansea City. In a tense and high-paced game, Penarth eventually triumphed 4-2 to set up a 'winner takes all' contest with reigning champions Cardiff & Met.

The contest of the day saw Penarth dominate for long periods in a closely-matched and emotionally-charged game, but it was the opposition who seized a vital advantage.

Having conceded an early lead, a combination of bad luck and the experienced Cardiff & Met side taking full advantage of their limited opportunities when ill-discipline reduced Penarth's numbers saw the Vale side turn around facing a 3-1 deficit, having closed the gap just minutes before the interval.

Despite the half-time scoreline, this was still a game Penarth could - and should - have won, as they dominated the second half, hitting the post twice in a matter of seconds. However, despite their intense pressure, they were unable to breach the Cardiff & Met defence again and the 3-1 final scoreline did disservice to the immense efforts of the Seasiders.

The disappointment of finishing second – and narrowly missing out on the opportunity to represent Wales in Europe next season - was palpable on the faces of skipper Marcus Powell, coach Ben Croxall and all the Penarth players and support team.

However, while it will, perhaps, be viewed as an opportunity missed, the performance was another measure of just how far Penarth have progressed in their short time back in the indoor version of the game, and as a club on the whole.

PENARTH 5, SWANSEA CITY 1

The first XI's stop-start resumption of the 2016-17 GoCrea8 campaign continued, after the previous weekend's game in Swindon was frozen off, against old rivals Swansea City.

Welcoming their foes to the 'Bears den' at Stanwell School, Penarth were looking to maintain their pursuit of a second successive promotion, this time from Conference North – a bid buoyed by favourable results around them either side of the Christmas break.

Swansea arrived lacking several senior players, but brought a team full of youth and, with plenty of running, made the better start to proceedings. Orchestrated by stalwart Jonny Gordon in midfield, the visitors caused Penarth problems and created several chances early on, forcing the home side to call on goalkeeper Simon Comfort to make some smart saves and keep them in the game.

The Bears were clearly struggling to find their shape and rhythm after a week off but, with pace to burn in attack, still looked dangerous on the counter and eventually began to create good chances of their own. Tim Urlings got in behind the Swansea back line on more than one occasion, particularly when fed by from Ben Croxall's searching aerials, but was repeatedly denied by the superb Swansea keeper.

Having found themselves on the back foot for large parts of the first half, Penarth's extra penalty corner practice paid dividends, as Laith El-Khatib fired his second effort of the afternoon low to the 'keeper's right to give the Bears the lead against the run of play.

As expected, however, Swansea refused to give in, and quickly replied with a penalty corner routine of their own that, despite Comfort getting a foot to the ball, was enough to bring the scores level.

Just as the game looked like heading into half-time all square, Penarth won another penalty corner right on the whistle and, while El-Khatib's initial effort was saved, the rebound fell to Urlings, who fired in on his reverse to maintain a remarkable goal streak since joining the club.

After a half-time pep talk, Penarth came out the blocks with much more intensity second time around and immediately put their opponents on the back foot. The pressure resulted in a crucial third goal early in the half, as El-Khatib, finding himself with time in the 'D', lined it up and smashed it home to put the Bears in control for the first time in the game.

Where Swansea's youthful energy was their strength in the first half, their inexperience proved a weakness in the second. Picking up several cards for cynical challenges and back chat took the game away from them, and Chris Baker took full advantage of the situation to score the pick of the afternoon's goals.

Receiving the ball in his own half from a 16-yard hit out, Baker beat several players on his way to the opposition 'D' before playing his own game of 'keep ball' and flicking high into the net to put the game to bed.

El-Khatib would bag another before the end to round out his hat-trick, this time picking up the rebound for his own first effort and making no mistake second time around, again flicking the ball high to the 'keeper's left to give Penarth a 5-1 victory.

A workmanlike performance from Penarth saw them carry on their march down the promotion trail, but Swansea had a lot more to be proud of than the 5-1 scoreline suggested.

Clearly lacking several senior players, the visitors' youth more than stepped up to the late, causing problems for Penarth throughout and playing with great spirit, with only for a few indiscretions denying them a much tighter game.

SWANSEA CITY A 3, PENARTH A 3

Penarth's second XI made the opposite journey, to Swansea, knowing that a win could potentially take them up to second place in De Cymru 1.

However, it was a much-changed pack of Bears who made the trip west, with over half the usual team unavailable.

With several key players missing, Penarth were forced to call a number of third and fourth XI players into the squad, and started the game with only eleven players and two strikers playing in the back four, with last season's league-winning captain Matt Birch filling in at centre back and fourth XI protege Tom Griffiths occupying the left back role pending the arrival of James Davies from umpiring duties.

Despite being denied the chance to warm up properly due to some unnecessary watering at their end of the pitch, the weaker team on paper did not show it on astroturf, and started the game well, with Dave Watkins dispossessing the Swansea centre back before being unable to convert the chance. The Vale side had a few more half-chances, but it was Swansea who eventually took the lead, against the run of play.

A controversial penalty corner was initially repelled by the Penarth defence, but the home side pinched the ball back in the final third and, after a square pass was wildly swung at - and missed - by the player at the front post, it was converted at the back post to put the hosts 1-0 up.

Penarth protested that the wild swing was dangerous, but their complaints were waved away and the goal stood. To compound the setback, the lead was soon doubled, this time via an excellent goal as the hosts moved the ball all over the pitch before firing in a good cross that was slapped home, just out of goalkeeper Adam Putt's reach at the back post.

Penarth refused to let their heads to drop and kept attacking, eventually being rewarded by pulling a goal back shortly before the break. Continuing to press the Swansea back four, the Bears won possession by dispossessing the right back, before some neat passing allowed Chris McCarthy to find debutant Griffiths, who showed excellent composure to flick the ball in off the post.

Penarth could have been level before the interval, as McCarthy continued to create chances, this time for skipper Sam Chick, whose dink over the onrushing keeper was well saved. The rebound was then hit goalwards, but crept wide after deflecting off a Swansea foot. No penalty corner resulted, leaving the sides split by a single goal at the end of the half.

Despite the half-time talk being about starting the second period quickly, it was the hosts who had the first chance, only for some fantastic last-gasp defending by Davies and Craig Llewellyn to repel the threat and set up a Penarth counterattack that eventually brought the sides level.

Andy Strong carried the ball from the edge of the Penarth 'D' into the opposition half, beating several men before finding McCarthy, who himself left opponents in knots before smashing the ball home on the reverse to make it 2-2.

Not content with a draw, Penarth kept attacking and, with Sam Salisbury and Jack Jopson particularly influential in the build-up - as they were all game - were rewarded with a penalty corner just minutes later. Receiving a perfect feed, Strong's shot was well-struck, firing into the bottom corner to complete the comeback and put the Bears ahead for the first time.

Penarth could well have extended their lead as they remained dominant for the majority of the half, but were to pay for their wastefulness in the final minutes. Andrew Hornby, who had been a rock all game, was unduly penalised for a tackle on the edge of the visitors' 'D' and, to rub salt into the wound, the free hit was subsequently upgraded to a penalty corner following a conference between the umpires. To complete the inevitable, the corner was flicked home to deprive Penarth of a well-deserved three points.

Although captain Chick would have accepted a share of the spoils before the game, given the squad he had travelled with, the pain of missing out on victory was amplified later in the afternoon when it became apparent that second-placed Bridgend had lost their game, gifting the Bears a chance to draw level on points had things gone their way.

GWENT B 3, PENARTH C 0

The 'C-Siders' travelled to Cwmbran for a morning encounter with their fellow 'Men of Gwent' and, despite finding their hosts bolstered by the inclusion of several second XI players, produced the usual close encounter between two well-matched teams.

Eager to secure a result that would close the gap on their third-placed opponents, Penarth began strongly and were dominant throughout the first half with man-of-the-match Rhys Meddins and Morgan Salisbury featuring prominently. It was only some exceptional goal-tending from the young Gwent 'keeper that kept the scoreline blank at half-time.

Gwent came more into the game following the resumption, and this time Penarth 'keeper Luke Williams had to be the equal of his more experienced counterpart to keep the home attack at bay. Williams could do little, however, when, following a sharp save from a Gwent penalty corner, the rebound fell to another attacking player, who forced the ball home.

Penarth needed to alter their formation in order to try and find a way back in to the game but, with skipper Nick Pratt proving oddly off colour and ineffective in attack, it was the Gwent side who were able to create more chances, two of which were converted to secure a strangely lop-sided 3-0 scoreline.

The result sees the 'C-siders' travelling to face Swansea City side equal on points with them at the foot of De Cymru 3 in what must now be a 'must win' game in the battle to avoid the wooden spoon.

This weekend sees all four Penarth sides in action for the first time in 2017, with the first XI heading to Devizes for an early start and the seconds hosting De Cymru 1 leaders Cardiff University at Stanwell (noon start) in what will likely be the toughest match-up in their promotion bid.

The 3rd and 4th XIs, meanwhile, are both in De Cymru 3 action, away at Gwent and Swansea City respectively.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. When the regular season resumes, training will take place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

Impressive away win for Barry Town United

WITH 15 played and 15 to play, Barry Town United have reached the mid-point of their Welsh League Division One campaign - and hopes are high at Jenner Park that the side can build upon a fine first half by mounting a successful second half championship challenge.

After the gruelling Nathaniel MG Cup final with The New Saints, manager Gavin Chesterfield rang the changes for the trip to Afan Lido, bringing James Dixon, Callum Sainty and Louis Gerrard into the starting line-up alongside midfielder Troy Greening, 10 months after the injury that curtailed his 2015-16 season.

Nevertheless, it was two of the Town's cup final standouts who proved to be the difference in Port Talbot, with forwards Jordan Cotterill and TJ Nagi hitting the target at the Marston Stadium and helping the visitors into a commanding two-goal lead.

Welsh Premier League mainstays for a number of seasons, Lido would offer a late reply to rouse their home support, but the Reds never threatened to stop Barry from claiming all three points, in what was one of the Town's most impressive excursions all season.

The 2-1 victory was Barry's third successive league success on the road and with second-placed Cambrian & Clydach held to a 1-1 draw by Monmouth , the win sets the table for the Town to leap into second should they beat Cwmbran Celtic at Jenner Park on Saturday (2pm kick-off).

With Cambrian fixtureless this weekend, Barry supporters will be hoping their team can extend its unbeaten run at home in the league, while following events at Plough Road with additional interest, as leaders Goytre entertain Taffs Well in another 2pm encounter.

Having secured a haul of 10 wins and four draws from their 17 outings to date, Goytre currently stand three points clear of Barry in the Division One table, albeit having played two more games than their Vale of Glamorgan adversaries.

Chesterfield will see his options bolstered on Saturday by the return of James Saddler, Chris Hugh and Tyrell Webbe, each of whom having featured in Wales' futsal internationals against Moldova, Greece and San Marino last weekend.

Admission for the match between Barry and Celtic will be £5 (adults) at the turnstiles, with concessions available for senior citizens and children.

Meanwhile, the club has paid tribute to popular defender Bobby Briers this week, after the former Carmarthen Town and Haverford-west County man moved on to fellow Welsh League outfit Pontypridd Town.

Arriving at Jenner Park in the 2012-13 campaign and featuring in that season's Welsh Cup semi-final against Prestatyn Town in Newtown, back-to-back champion Briers would appear more than 100 times for the Barry first team, becoming an established penalty taker for the side in that time and scoring the crucial spot kick that saw off Cardiff Met in October's Nathaniel MG Cup quarter-final.

AC

The Barry and District Ladies Skittle League

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing January 16 are as follows:

Division 1: Family and Friends (S Loveless, H James 24) 252, SV Gals (C Provis 31) 262; Pila Palas (S Barnett 35) 347, Special Angels (T Scully 31) 288; Bakers Dozen (A Haive 31) 280, Barry Stars (M Richards 29) 257; Red Admiral (P Peters 25) 228, Coppers (S Curtis 26) 236; Space Finders (J Snooks 36) 327, Colcot Ladies (M Snelling 30) 275; Family Affair (Sandra Wilson 29) 233, Allsorts (R Dawe 27) 228; Bobby's Biurls (S Snelson 29) 253, Cigar Ladies (L James 31) 295.

Division 2: Roller Coasters (J Fairweather 24) 242, Witchill Weebies (S Dobinson 28) 229; After Eights (I Harvard 32) 248, Witchill Widows (L Spyron 31) 271; Breakaways (V Martin 31) 268, Rhoose Starlights (K Bryan 32) 284; Clickies (J Williams 33) 303, Airways Angels (J Thomas, A Crook 28) 256; Fallen Angels (J Tudor 27) 241, Merry Makers (G Hawker 25) 205; Castaways (K Billings 31) 269, SV Lights (M Briscombe 34) 267.

Division 3: Rebels (L Saunders, R Sutton, K Gammon 27) 263, Little Devils (J H Jones 28) 267; Vixens (N Sheppard, H Jones 27) 265, Westenders (KM Condon, H Coombers 27) 273; Rugby Triers (E Nicolau 30) 236, Challengers (B Binding 25) 240; Hill Billies (M Brinkworth 34) 299, Uptown Girls (J Cosslett 34) 312; La Belles (S Davies, N Cordy, S Webber 31) 329, SV Ladies (L McGiven 37) 317; Witches (V Walters 27) 228, Twilights (S Haysom, A Campbell 26) 127; Dolly Mixtures (C Abbott, L Marsh 22) 199, Etcetera (K Baker 24) 217.

Division 4: Off The Rails (L: McCormack 29) 245, Aristocats (M Moore 25) 174; Persuaders (T Danelson, M Whitehurst, E Gardner 23) 233, Boozy Birds (A Lloyd 34) 264; Liberals (G Shiers 29) 229, Socialites (S Marks 21) 207; Witchill Wanderers (C Reynolds 32) 231, Guardian Angels (S Hooper 33) 286; Hell Raisers (J Mitchell 24) 228, Odd Bods (K Dutton 27) 191.

The next meeting will be on February 6.

MC

Women urged to 'Race for Life'

WOMEN are being encouraged to 'banish the winter blues' by signing up to Cancer Research UK's Race for Life.

Women of all ages, shapes and sizes can enter the Race for Life 5k at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend on Sunday, June 4.

Lisa Sweeting, Cancer Research UK's Bridgend event manager, said: "Signing up to take part in Race for Life is a great way for women to set themselves a new and exciting challenge for 2017.

"Race for Life events are non-competitive and participants can choose to walk, jog or run around the course.

Whether they plan to amble with friends or sprint to the finish line, every step they take will help to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

"Every day, 52 people are diagnosed with cancer in Wales. Together, we can stop this devastating disease in its tracks."

"By taking part in Race for Life, mums, daughters, sisters and friends can make a real difference in the fight against cancer. We urge women to sign up right now and show their support."

Cancer Research UK's Race for Life, in partnership with Tesco, is a women-only series of 5k, 10k, 'Pretty Muddy', marathon and hiking events which raise millions of pounds every year in a bid to beat cancer by funding research.

For further information about Cancer Research UK's work or to find out how to support the charity, call 0300 123 1022 or visit www.cancer researchuk. org.

To enter the Race for Life, visit raceforlife.org or call 0300 123 0770.

Dinas Powys Golf Club - ladies section results

THE new year competitions began on January 10, with a nine hole Medal:

1st Sue Bridle 45–9=36 nett, 2nd Sian Smith 47 – 10.5 = 36.5 nett, 3rd Ruth Yates 51 –12.5=38.5 nett on back 3 from Annie Blackburn 48-9.5=38.5.

On January 17, a nine Hole Stableford: 1st Sian Smith 17 pts, 2nd Dorothy Amery 16 pts, 3rd Audrey Harwood 15pts on back 6 from Ruth Yates 15 pts.

On January 24, a nine hole Medal: 1st Lisa Ryley 43 –8 =35, 2nd Maxine Hird 48 – 12 = 36, 3rd Ruth Yates 50-13 = 37.

RY

Beavers thank Round Table

BARRY BEAVERS swimming club were one of the lucky organisations to receive a toy donation from the Round Table's recent Santa Sleigh appeal.

They received toys that swimmers can play with and use in the water during club sessions, which will help to develop learners' basic water skills.

The Beavers would like to thank those involved with the Round Table for their generosity and goodwill.

THE NEW YEAR BRINGS A NEW DEPARTURE FOR CAMERA CLUB

AFTER the excesses of Christmas and the New Year celebrations, Barry Camera Club members started the year on January 6 with a talk by John Tillesley, of Dorchester Camera Club, entitled 'Street Photography and Candid Portraiture'.

Street photography is one of the niche interests in photography and it was very welcome to have such an accomplished practitioner show us his work. The prints he displayed were taken at a wide range of events in his locality and were mostly in black and white, some taken as long as 35 years ago on film cameras.

Some of the images he had taken on cameras that are today considered very 'low-tech', were of fabulous quality, which proves more than anything that the photographer is more important than the equipment.

John let us into his secret to successful street photography, which is to keep on trying and keep returning to places until we get a feel for the people and the event. This was a very interesting evening presented by a most accomplished speaker and was very well received by the membership.

The 13th of the month was a new departure for the club with a presentation from Llanelli-based duo, Sleepy Robot Photography, devoted to experimental photography based mainly around compositing and post camera processing, using the ever-popular Photoshop program.

One interesting project has been their using themselves as models to create shots that are in the style of famous artists, including the extremely popular Jack Vettriano; however, they also undertake more mainstream work such as ballet, landscapes and natural history subjects putting their own slightly unorthodox style to the finished work. On January 20, we were shown the highlight images from the Cheltenham International Salon 2016, presented by Richard McCleery of the Cheltenham Camera Club. The Salon is an important annual competition open to professional photographers and amateur clubs across the country and abroad with an open subject matter, and this year has attracted nearly 7,000 entries.

We were shown inspiring images from the travel, creative, monochrome and nature categories. Success in salon events is a prestigious achievement and we are very pleased to see one of our members, Tina Haydon, having acceptances for the second year running.

As always, the month concluded with our monthly competition night. This month the judge was Keith Sharples, of the Monmouth Camera Club. Keith felt that some images had been a little over-processed, resulting in a 'noisy' finish, but made very favourable comments on the overall quality of the work presented to him.

He went on to explain how hard it was to separate the very best of the images as they were all of extremely high standard, however he eventually decided to make the following awards:

Monochrome print: commenting on the very good number of entries, Keith awarded first prize and 20 points to Mike Lewis for 'Brecon Winter'. Barbra Archdale-Smith gained second place and 19 points for 'Look At That Leaf' and third spot with 18 points was taken by Glenn Porter for his 'JP – Tax The Heat'.

Colour print: this was a closely fought contest with some very high marks being awarded, however Keith finally settled the competition by awarding 20 points and first place to John Dudley for 'Evening Flight', second place and 19 points to Barbra Archdale-Smith for her 'Trio Of Colourful Homes' and third place with 18 points to Hugh Winnan for 'Watching The Watchers'.

Projected image: this section was, as always, the most hotly contested section with 34 entries this month. The winner with 20 points was Tina Haydon for 'Beauty Sleep'. An excellent showing from our resident natural history expert Steve Everitt gained him second place, scoring 19 points with a shot entitled 'Elusive Bittern' and also third place and 18 points for 'Good Morning'.

February promises to be an interesting month with visits from Dave Green and Roy Carr, a seven-way battle at the Vale Camera Club, Ystradowen and our monthly competition.

Throughout the rest of the year we have a full programme of talks, demonstrations, photographic expeditions, competitions and inter-club battles planned. New members will be made most welcome,

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm to 9.30pm at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry (CF62 6NX). For more information, visit our website www.barrycamera club.co.uk and check out our Facebook page.

Vale AM commemorates Holocaust Memorial Day

Jane Hutt (left) with Christine Lee at the Senedd.

AS part of Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations on January 27, Vale AM Jane Hutt signed a Book of Commitment in the Senedd for Holocaust education and remembrance.

The Labour AM attended a vigil on the steps of the Senedd organised by Julie Morgan AM and the Cross Party Group on Gypsy and Travellers. A reading was delivered by Vale resident Christine Lee from the Romani Cultural and Arts Company.

She also attended Cowbridge Comprehensive School's Holocaust 'Reflection Evening' and said: "The evening was very moving, with poignant readings and music from pupils."

Local FoE opposes houses on green fields

THE next meeting of Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth will be on Tuesday, February 7, at 7.30pm in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry.

Several members attended the demonstration on Saturday, which was called by 'Reclaim the Power' at Aberthaw Power Station.

We need 'green energy' projects which make use of our tides, winds and the sun, not this polluting relic of the industrial revolution.

In connection with this action, members are setting up air quality monitoring test tubes throughout Barry and the Vale. The final results will be published.

The group's planning officer, Max Wallis, argued against the Cosmeston green field housing development and the proposal to turn Five Mile Lane into a 60mph road through green fields and woodland, when he appeared at the public inquiries. Mr Wallis and the FoE group have consistently opposed the Vale Council's plans to build on green fields.

The group were pleased to see some councillors prepared to challenge the planning departments at their last planning meeting. We hope they will continue voting to protect the environment and stop over-development.

Keith Stockdale
Barry&Vale Friends of the Earth

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Injury forces Sully View firsts abandonment as seconds take on Old Pens

SULLY VIEW RFC, lying third in the table, travelled to second-placed Hirwaun looking for a victory that would reverse the league standings.

The opening exchanges were fierce and evenly fought, with play end-to-end, and then halfway through the first period, with outside half Chris Cummings kicking two penalties to the home side's converted try, disaster struck when flanker Peter Brown snapped his ankle.

The referee was forced to abandon the game as Peter could not be moved from the pitch as he lay in pain waiting for an ambulance to arrive.

Players, officials and spectators all wish Peter a quick and full recovery.

SULLY VIEW RFC SECONDS 15, OLD PENARTHIANS SECONDS 29

OLD PENS gained a thumping victory on the season's opening day, and they travelled the short distance to local rivals Sully View expecting an easy double.

Although from the scoreline it may look that they got what they expected, the truth was a little different.

Both teams played an expansive game and ran hard good lines, but in the end it was the Pens who deservedly came out on top, as they were better at supporting the runners.

In a hard-fought first period both sides had turns of dominance and at the break the scores were level at 5-5.

It was the View that exerted the opening pressure, and when the Pens failed to secure the ball from their own lineout five metres from their own line, flanker Jake Haysham burst through for an unconverted try.

It was then the turn of the visitors to enjoy the best of play and territory, eventually levelling the scores 10 minutes before the break with a try almost identical to the one they conceded, pinching a Sully lineout five metres from the home try line.

Again the game was turned on its head as the View stormed into the attack for the remainder of the half, and were unfortunate not to take the lead on the stroke of halftime.

A Sully attack was halted illegally just inside the Pens 22, and fullback Nathan Taylor took a quick tap penalty, and looked odds on to score, but the last defender tackled him high, and the score was lost.

Fortunately for the defender, but not so for the View, the referee failed to give a card of any sort, or even a penalty try, and with the visitors now remarshalled in defence, the View opted to take a penalty kick, only to see Rhys Manford's effort sail wide, and the scores tied at the break.

This spurred the Pens, and within two minutes of the restart they took the lead, when they pounced on a poor View kick out of defence, moved the ball quickly across their hard running backs for an unconverted try in the corner.

Once again, the control of the game changed, as Sully took charge for the next 20 minutes.

After a series of drives in, and around, the visitors' 22 yielded several kickable penalties, which the View opted to run, and it was Manford that took a quick tap penalty five metres out to sneak through for an unconverted try.

Five minutes later, the Pens regained the lead, scoring a well worked converted try, again the result of good running angles and support play, although the View felt aggrieved as a couple of iffy referee decisions counted against them in the build-up.

From the restart, the View caught the Pens defence in possession, turned the ball over, and now it was their turn to show that they too could run hard and support the ball carrier, with flanker Nathan Szuchnik crashing over wide out for an unconverted try.

The critical, and most controversial, score came 10 minutes from the final whistle.

With a strong Pens attack crossing the home 22, the ball carrier was tackled, his support clearly over running him, and his offload a couple of metres forward, went unseen, by the referee, and even then the scorer was tackled before the line with fullback Taylor under him and the ball, only for a try to be awarded, with an easy conversion following.

Sully now slightly overstretched themselves, as they sought to score another try to give them a try bonus point, and possibly a losing bonus point, and the visitors took advantage to score the best try of the game in added time, again demonstrating good hands, lines of running and support play.

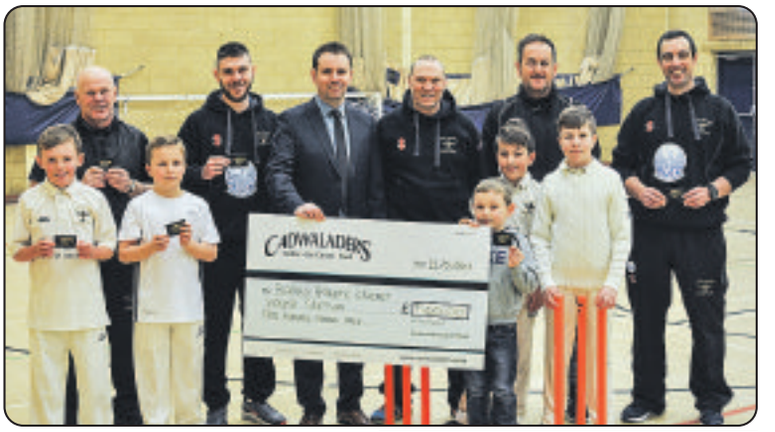
Considering this was the View's first game for six weeks, and after criticism the previous week for their failure to manage to field a team, if they can train a little more, and get teams out regularly, then, on this fine display, there would be improvement and promise to see them become even more competitive in their remaining fixtures.

The next couple of months sees another period of disruption to fixtures, as the Six Nations is played, but as Wales play this Sunday, the firsts have a league fixture at home this Saturday against old rivals Cardiff Internationals Athletic Club (CIACs), kick-off 2.30pm – players to meet at the club by 1pm.

MJS

Cricket club's youth section announces sponsorship deal

LAST year Cadwaladers and Barry Athletic Cricket youth section began a unique sponsorship deal that heralded a great working partnership.



Cadwaladers, located on the doorstep of Barry Athletic Cricket Club stepped forward to help out the youth section.

Cadwaladers not only stepped in with financial backing, they provided the location for parents to start and end the sessions with discount cards provided along with training jackets which the children proudly wore all season.

The partnership was such a success that with the 2017 season looming, Cadwaladers have kindly agreed to sponsor the youth section to enable the coaches to provide expert coaching and tuition.

Cadwaladers have been able to send nine coaches on courses to improve their knowledge.

These coaches have come from a variety of backgrounds, mostly via parents of children who have attended the youth section over the past two years.

Cadwaladers have had such a commitment to the club that they have attended numerous social nights and Paul Morton, the operations manager, was on hand to present the player of the year award at the presentation night held at the club in September, 2016.

Paul Morton commented: "Cadwaladers are proud to continue our involvement with Barry Athletic Cricket Club's youth section.

"We strongly believe sport is a great way of bringing local communities together and keeping people active and healthy. We are looking forward to cheering the team on in 2017."

With the youth section ever expanding and a new under-13s team entering the Cardiff and Vale Cricket Junior league, the partnership with Cadwaladers has been pivotal in the ongoing success of the club.

With the new building works taking place at the ground this year, the 127th in the club's history promises to be an exciting one with both the senior and junior sides looking for promotion.

Mark Ellis, the youth section coordinator, commented: "This year promises to be the best yet with over 45 young members (both boys and girls) in the youth section ranging from six to 13 years old.

"In readiness for the new season we start indoor nets on Sunday, January 22, at Colcot Sports Hall from 2pm-3pm.

"Our partnership with Cadwaladers shows that local businesses can be of massive support to the club and we really appreciate all that Cadwaladers is doing to help us achieve our goals of producing talented Barry cricketers for the future.

Pictured is Paul Morton handing over a cheque for the new season to youth-coordinator Mark Ellis at one of the indoor youth sessions.

ME

Seven of the best from Barry ladies

BARRY TOWN LADIES went into their penultimate home game of the season in fine form having won their last six league matches as they looked to continue their charge toward possible promotion from the Women's Welsh League.

The Town were without a number of first team regulars for this encounter with Pontypridd but this gave the opportunity to manager, Adam Hewings, to rotate the squad and they didn't disappoint with a solid display and comfortable victory.

Midfielder and captain for the day, Tracey White, had a fantastic game working tirelessly and setting a great example to the rest of the team.

She was also in fine form in front of goal notching up her first hat-trick for the club with two headers from corners and a well taken shot.

The defensive line of Megan Davies, Hannah Moger, Emma Thompson and Emily Mortimore were rarely troubles as Barry spent the majority of the game camped in the Pontypridd half.

Striker Ffion Thomas was a constant threat scoring two goals and in particular, her pace often caused problems for the visitors' defence.

Hungarian forward, Luca Laky has been in superb form this season, firing in the goals and once again, she found the net in this game with a well-taken strike.

Laky has become a pivotal player for the team playing in the No.9 role who is a strong and technically gifted player and enjoys bringing other players into the game.

Her development over the season has seen her become one of the top strikers at this level.

The influential Naomi Coulson also gave another fine display playing down the right of midfield and she continued her goalscoring form with a well-taken strike in the second half.

To their credit, Pontypridd worked hard throughout the game spending long periods without the ball, but they did force Barry goalkeeper Davies into a fine save with her feet midway through the second half.

The win maintains Barry's position at the top of the league for now two points clear of their closest rivals, Caldicot Town who have two games in hand.

The Jenner Park-based club now turn to League Cup action this Sunday as they travel to play Willows Ladies from the South Wales Women's League.

LW

Chess club stretched by competition commitments

THIS week saw the second round of the Welsh Premier Chess League.

It was followed on the next day by three matches for the Barry Chess Club.

This stretched our resources to the limit. For the Quarks team there was also a second match two days later.

In the Welsh Premier League The Vale made the short journey to Cardiff.

On paper, the teams were evenly matched, although we would have been looking to record our second victory.

However, it wasn't to be as we fell to a 4.5-1.5 defeat. Our points came from a win by Ben Thomas and a draw from Lee Davis.

After two rounds of play only Cardiff have two wins.

The Vale, Abergavenny, Nidum and White Knights all have two points so there is everything to play for over the final three rounds of play.

Elsewhere, two Barry players found themselves on opposite sides of the board when Abergavenny played host to Nidum. The two Matthews, Parry and Davies, shared the spoils.

The Bosons in division 1 lost to North Cardiff by 3.5 - 1.5. This is a big improvement on the reverse fixture.

Our points were collected by draws for Steve Cunliffe, Matthew Parry and Ken Hannah. We remain in mid-table.

In division 3, the Quarks hosted fellow relegation strugglers St John's College Neutrinos on Monday and then travelled to Cardiff to play league leaders Cardiff Dragons.

We started with a win against the Neutrinos by 3-2. We followed this up by defeating the Dragons by a marginally greater score of 3.5-1.5.

A total of seven players played for the Quarks in these two games with Stephen Bonutto taking pride of place in earning two victories on board 1.

With Bridgend C losing their match the Quarks have risen out of the relegation zone by 0.5 of a point.

In division 4, the Gambits travelled to Bridgend to play Bridgend D.

The ratings suggested we would lose on board 1 and 2 but win on 3 and 4 and draw the final match to share the spoils.

However, in the end we lost on 3 and 4 and drew on 5 to be in a seemingly difficult position.

With time running out, Phillip Jones managed to squeeze a win against Bob Owen, leaving Sam White to play the decisive game.

Sam eventually won when his opponent, Wayne James saw his flag fall as he ran out of time. Sam had only a couple of minutes left on his clock as well.

Still, we returned home with a draw which is exactly what I expected, albeit with different players being responsible for our points. The Gambits also remain in mid-table.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess, or just the occasional friendly game.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website, we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

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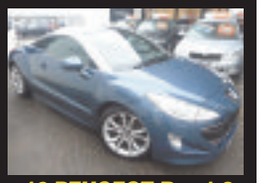

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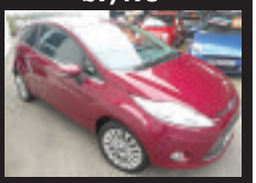

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10 RANGE ROVER Sport 3.6 TDV8 HSE Auto In bali blue with black leather, 60,000 miles, high spec.....**£19,995**

59 RANGE ROVER 3.6 TDV8 Vogue Auto In black with cream leather, 69,000 miles, high spec.....**£19,995**

61 FORD S-Max Titanium X 2.2 TDCi Sport In midnight sky, 26,000 miles, 7 seater diesel.....**£16,995**

59 BMW Z4 5 Drive 35i Auto In met-grey with leather trim, 59,000 mile convertable at **£13,995**

13 VOLKSWAGEN Passat CC Blue Motion-Tech 2.0 TDi Automatic In black, only 19,000 miles....**£13,495**

96 JAGUAR XK8 Automatic In met-green with cream leather, only 23,000 miles from new, superb example **£12,995**

08 LANDROVER Freelander 2 HSE 2.2 TD4 Auto In met burgundy with beige interior, 72,000 mile, high spec 4x4 at **£10,995**

62 NISSAN Qashqai 1.5 DCi N-Tec In silver, 61,000 miles, sat-nav, pan-roof etc **£9,995**

14 FORD B-Max 1.0 Titanium In blazer blue, 18,000 miles, under ford warranty **£9,495**

10 PEUGEOT Rcz 1.6 (156) GT In blue with grey leather, 34,000 miles **£9,495**

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13 FORD Focus Zetec S Turbo Eco-Boost 5-Dr In black, 29,000 miles, £30 road tax.....**£8,995**

61 SKODA Yeti 2.0 Diesel SE+TDi 4x4 In pacific blue, 77,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,995**

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13 MINI One 1.6 In red, 31,000 miles, 1 owner with alloys, climate, pepper pack.....**£7,995**

63 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.2 Match 5-Dr In silver, 10,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,995**

62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP In white with black roof, 48,000 miles, full leather trim.....**£7,995**

12 MINI Cooper 1.6 In white silver with black roof, 23,000 miles. ..... **REDUCED BY £1000 TO £7,995**

12 VAUXHALL Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusive Diesel Estate In silver, 43,000 miles.....**£7,995**

09 MAZDA MX5 1.8i Roadster Coupe In true red, 48,000 miles, solid roof convertible **£7,995**

13 PEUGEOT 3008 Aless HDi 5-Dr In met red, 29,000 miles **£7,695**

14 VAUXHALL Adam Glam 1.4 In very berry with cream roof, 25,000 miles, 1 owner, bluetooth, pan roof etc **£7,595**

64 SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZL 3-Dr In black with white roof, 19,000 miles, 1 owner **£7,495**

63 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style-E In encre met with white roof, 52,000 mile diesel hatch, free road tax **£7,495**

10 SKODA Yeti 1.2 TSi SE In aqua blue, 46,000 miles .....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £7,495**

15 FIAT 500S Twinair In italia blue, 22,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£6,995**

64 PEUGEOT 208 Active 1.2 5-Dr In black, 26,000 miles, £20 road tax **£6,995**

63 VAUXHALL Zafira Exclusiv 1.6 In royal blue, 26,000 miles, very reliable 7 seater family car **£6,995**

63 FORD Fiesta 1.5 TDCi Zetec 3-Dr In black, 56,000 miles. 1 owner, free road tax **£6,995**

11 CITREON C4 VTR 1.6 HDi Automatic In silver, 33,000 miles with panoramic roof.....**£6,995**

11 NISSAN Qashqai 1.6 Acenta In met nightshade, 72,000 miles, 2 owners.....**£6,995**

60 PEUGEOT 5008 Sport 1.6 Diesel 7-Seater In met-grey, 58,000 miles **£6,995**

62 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In white, 32,000 miles, with a/c alloys etc **£6,495**

11 SKODA Octavia 1.4 TSi Elegance 5-Dr In silver, 48,000 miles, 2 owners.....**£6,495**

64 PEUGEOT 108 Active 3-Dr In red, 23,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£6,295**

63 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Energy 3-Dr In white, 20,000 miles, one owner **£5,995**

12 MERCEDES A160 Blue-Efficiency Avant Garde SE In met blue, 54,000 Miles..... .....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,995**

62 SKODA Rapid SE TSi 5-Dr In white, 59,958 miles, very nice example at **£5,995**

61 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDi Style In white with black roof, 73,000 miles, diesel, free road tax **£5,995**

09 VOLVO V50 1.8 Sport In red, 56,000 miles with alloys, a/c, good looking estate **£5,995**

11 CITROEN C3 Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive In met-grey, 63,000 miles, diesel **£5,695**

10 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.6 TDCi SE 5-Dr In met blue, 74,000 miles, diesel hatch **£5,495**

11 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr In met grey, 41,000 miles with air-con etc **£4,995**

61 RENAULT Clio 1.6 GT Line VVTi Automatic In blue, 16,000 miles, with sat-nav ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

11 MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 5-Dr In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout.....**£4,995**

10 FORD Focus 1.6 Titanium 5-Dr In silver, 56,000 miles, high spec family hatch at **£4,995**

10 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Edge Automatic 5-Dr In mulbury metalic, 41,000 miles ....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

09 FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 3-Dr Automatic In hot magenta, 53,000 miles..... .....**REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,995**

09 MINI One 1.4 In met grey with pepper pack, alloys etc, 57,000 miles.....**£4,995**

56 SUZUKI Grand Vitara 1.6 3-Dr In black, 69,000 miles, 2 owners 4x4 with extras at **£4,995**

10 VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE Automatic 3-Dr In aqua marine blue, 56,000 miles, heated seats etc....**£4,695**

58 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 1.9 TDi (105) 5-Dr Match In met grey, 70,000 miles, diesel **£4,695**

05 BMW 118i SE Automatic 5-Dr In met-grey, 57,000 miles,1 owner, fantastic example at **£4,495**

08 HONDA Jazz 1.4 SE Automatic In met-blue, 36,000 miles, very nice example..... **£4,295**

08 VOLKSWAGEN Eos 2.0 Convertable In black, 79,000 miles, 4 seater with solid roof **£4,295**

10 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Expression 5-Dr In electric blue, 39,000 miles **£3,995**

60 CITROEN C1 VTR+ 5-Dr In red, 46,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£3,995**

09 SEAT Ibiza 1.2S 3-Dr In nayara blue, 55,000 miles, low insurance..... **£3,995**

08 CITROEN C4 Picasso 1.6 Diesel VTR Auto In met muave, 85,000 mile 7-seater **£3,995**

09 FORD Focus 2.0 TDi 136 Zetec Automatic Estate In met-blue, ideal family estate at .. **£3,695**

06 SAAB 93 Linear 2.0 Convertable (150) In black with cream leather, 66,000 miles..... **£3,495**

58 FIAT 500 1.2 In mama blue, with glass roof and alloys, £30 road tax **£3,295**

07 CITROEN C1 Vibe 3-Dr In red, 39,000 miles, low insurance and road tax **£2,695**

62 CITROEN DS3 D Sport Plus 1.6 THP
In white with black roof, 48,000 miles, full leather trim
£7,995

63 VAUXHALL Zafira Exclusiv 1.6
In royal blue, 26,000 miles, very reliable 7 seater family car
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MAZDA 2 Sport 1.5 5-Dr
In spirited green, 74,000 miles, very nice throughout
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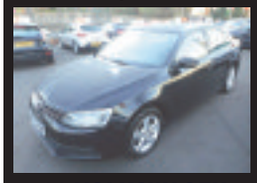

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JSTKD students put on a great performance

THERE was another great performance from Team JSTKD at the recent TAGB Midlands Tae Kwon Do Championships.

Nine intrepid competitors made the journey to Kettering, Northants.

This time, the team was made up solely of juniors, all of whom represented JSTKD admirably.

Team regulars Menna and Harri Burmingham, Josh and Sean Edwards, Alisha Roberts, Zak Grinter and Alex Munn were joined by two new recruits, Sion and Cai Selby who have both recently got their first yellow stripes.

Competitors must have a yellow stripe or above to participate and both boys were keen not to waste any time in getting their names on the score sheet.

The team got off to a flying start with Menna claiming bronze in the Girls Black Belt Patterns, Josh grabbing the bronze in the Boys Black Belt Lightweight sparring and younger brother Sean coming away with the gold in the Boys Black Belt Peewee sparring.

Great performances were also given in the colour belt events by Alisha, Zak and Harri as well as Alex, who fought on bravely despite taking a hard kick to the head.

The newest team members certainly didn't let a lack of experience stand in their way.

Sion made an impressive debut with a fantastic effort which saw him win the gold in the Boys Yellow Belt Peewee Sparring event, while Cai's debut also resulted in success as he won bronze in the Boys Yellow Belt Lightweight Sparring.

JSTKD has classes throughout the Vale for all abilities from three years up to adults and offers a free taster lesson for new students.

Full details at www.jstkd.co.uk.

VW

FARMERS TEE OFF AT COTTRELL PARK

COTTRELL PARK Golf Club, now firmly established as Wales' home of golf, hosted the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society last Thursday when 34 members had the privilege of competing for the many prizes supplied by generous sponsor Mr Gino Cocco of Llanharan Concrete Co Ltd.

Winning golfers Martyn Edwards, Clive Thomas, Clive Edwards and Bob Bishop with sponsor Gino Cocco.

Despite a bitingly cold wind all but three of those who started completed their round on the extremely well prepared Button course.

Those that finished were full of praise for the condition of the 'greens' and credit for this must go to Dan Jarvis and Paul Morgan who work tirelessly in producing a golf course that really was in excellent condition.

When all competitors returned to the clubhouse to join early leavers Godfrey Lewis, Bryan Wadham and Trevor Wooding it soon became apparent that a close result would ensue with just four points separating the top five finishers.

A final score of 31 stableford points for David Williams and John Caines was soon bettered by Clive Edwards who finished in third place with 32 points.

Runner-up with 33 points was Martyn Edwards who managed once again to claw defeat from the jaws of victory when failing to score on the 307-yard stroke index four 17th hole.

Playing partner Clive Thomas, claiming a generous handicap of 22, took full advantage of this collecting four points on this same hole to move into pole position.

Clive and Martyn both bogeyed the closing 18th hole leaving Llantwit Major farmer Clive to claim victory with 35 points and collect the Llanharan Concrete Co Ltd silver rose bowl.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par-3 holes were Clive Edwards, guest Bob Bishop and also 84-year-old Aubrey Bowen, the recently 'retired' lumberjack from Penmark, after a quiet word in his ear from Mrs Bowen!

Overall winner Clive Thomas won the Bear Hotel Cowbridge sponsored longest drive competition and Aubrey Thomas, despite a screw top bottle, managed to return home with a full bottle of whiskey provided by sponsors Premier Turf Ltd. Aubrey correctly guessed 38 balls would remain out on this wonderful part of God's country that raised £100 for the Noah's Ark Appeal Fund.

Members are now looking forward to the annual presentation dinner and dance scheduled for Friday, February 17 at The Bear Hotel Cowbridge; tickets available from Ray Simkiss– telephone 01446 774542.

T.McC

BLAST FROM THE PAST

CONTINUING our 'blasts from the past', which I am often told that you enjoy reading, here is another and under the heading 'Llewellyn Triumphs' – this is what I had to say.

John Llewellyn (Cowbridge) and Mike Williams (Bassaleg), the two best riders in Wales, fought out an exciting finish to a high-class men's open race at the Curre Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Saturday.

Victory went to Llewellyn who was riding *Nearly There 11* for Mrs Catherine Hiorns. Mike Williams, riding *Fitz* for Mrs Rose Harry of Dinas Powys, put in a strong challenge between the last two fences and after jumping the last just behind *Nearly There 11* was three lengths down at the winning post.

It was quick consolation for Llewellyn,who looked like trotting home in the members' race on *North Gate,* only to fall at the last when well clear. Tim Rooney, a 16-year-old blacksmith from Marshfield, made every post a winning one when coming home eight lengths clear of the favourite *Brankley* in the maiden race.

The members' race that day was won by Bill Jones on *Tyro's Try* which had beaten the long odds-on favourite *Artist's Folly*. John Beavis won the Adjacent Hunts race on *April Delight* and the ladies' open race went to Wales' most prolific point-to-pointer, Tom Morgan's *Mandryka,* which with Shan Morgan in the saddle beat *Sampson Brass*.

The Vale's Eirlys Thomas finished third on her *Orange Pip*.

Rose Harry, Bill Jones and Mike Williams are sadly no longer with us but Tim Rooney went on to become one of the best riders in Wales, and in 1977 he won the famed Horse & Hound Cup at Stratford on 50-1 chance *Devil's Walk*.

Cowbridge Road racecourse

MEANWHILE, where was the Cowbridge Road racecourse in Barry situated?

I only ask because I have the official programme for the Bridgend 100 yards sprint, value £60, which took place there on August 7, 1926.

Heat one was won by R Howells, of Cefn Cribbwr, off nine-and- a-half yards. Another local winner was R Evans of Maesteg.

On May 28, 1927 at Maesteg Rugby Football Ground the Welsh National Whippet Association staged a Whippet and Foot Handicaps meeting. I know this because I have a collection of programmes for all sort of events from horse racing, point-to-point racing and greyhound racing.

The first race was at 3.30pm and luckily for me the programme, which cost just two pence, has been fully marked so I can tell you the names of the winners.

The first event, heat one, of the 80 yards (which was for boys under 16) was won by S Lewis (Caerau) who had a 12 and a half yard start and he beat H Evans of Maesteg, who was off 12 yards.

Y Howard (Port Talbot) off 22 yards beat C Burns (Nantyffyllon) off 10 yards in the second heat.

In the final, Lewis won from H Evans (Maesteg).

There were three heats of the 120-yard open handicap which was won by AH Moore of Port Talbot. As for the whippet competition, there were 10 heats and the winner was Mr Lloyd's *Grand Lady*.

These events must have been popular in the Vale back then as the programme advertised another meeting that was due to take place on June 25 that year.

E-mail your news, views or pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com

BRIAN LEE

Barrivale Bridge Club RESULTS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for January 24:

1st Debbie Richards & Noelle Bond 62.70%; 2nd Irene Thomas & Sean Macdougall 57.14%; 3rd Mike Close & Kay Dyer 55.56%. Debbie Dawkins and Alan Jones won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively, players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

David brothers are winners...

EVAN DAVID and his brother Tom from Llanharan, both rode winners last weekend, *writes Brian Lee*.

Evan won the open maiden on *Naylers Spirit* for Andrew Pennock at the Waveney Harriers fixture at Higham, and Tom took the intermediate race at the Heythrop meeting at Cocklebarrow on *En Passe* for Howard Pauling.

Wales's Jodie Hughes riding the Mickey Bowen-trained *The Ship Brien* won the maiden race at this meeting.

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WALES ARE GOING 'BACK TO BASICS' TO PROVE A POINT AGAINST AZZURRI

by Don John

WHEN Wales kick off their RBS Six Nations challenge against Italy at 3pm on Sunday at Rome's Stadio Olympico, there is precious little chance of them taking the so-called tournament 'minnows' lightly - new skipper Alun Wyn Jones warning: *"it's going to be a tough opener against a passionate Italian side, as is always the case with them"*.

He is right to be cautious. Wales may have played the lowly outsiders 24 times since they first met at the old National Stadium in Cardiff on October 12, 1994, winning on 21 occasions, and rattling up 815 points to 400 against; but players and coaches in the Wales camp are under no illusions that there is more at stake than usual in 2017, with potential World Cup rankings and the British & Irish Lions' tour in mind.

They will be out to make an immediate statement of intent, get off to a winning start, and silence vocal critics like ex-Springbok coach, Nick Mallett, who has written off a Welsh squad in 'transition' as genuine title contenders – even before a ball has been kicked in earnest – and says he *"would not be surprised to see Italy win."*

Last year in Cardiff, saw a dominant Dragon totally overwhelm the Azzurri 67-14, but caretaker coach Robert Howley's embattled camp will not fall into the trap of taking another try-fest for granted in this banana skin clash against opponents who can be a different proposition in Rome – as more than a few unwary opponents, including Wales, have found to their cost in the past.

Indeed, Italy's two successes against the men in red came in front of their own passionate home fans – winning 30-22 in 2003, and 23-20 in 2007 at Stadio Flaminio (sandwiching an unexpected 18-18 draw at the Millennium Stadium on March 11, 2006).

Nevertheless, with three out of four hard-fought autumn test wins under their belts, Wales might be expected to go into the opening game in confident mood, but those victories, commendable though they were, did not drown out the persistent calls for a change in approach from well-tried aggressive-defence to the more free-running, skills-based style now in vogue around the world.

A typically forthright Alun Wyn tackled the vexed question of Welsh 'performance' head on when he met the waiting media for the first time, after taking over the captain's armband from Sam Warburton: *"A lot has been said of the way we play and what we have and haven't done. We are a team that are potentially evolving and we are going back to basics," he announced. "The more we do with the ball, the better… I think it will be an entertaining Six Nations."*

Looking to the opening weekend, he said: *"Any team wants to get off to a flying start and (with extra bonus points at stake this year) to make a good fist of the competition".* He candidly conceded "*England are the team to beat…they are well out in front at the minute, with the success and winning streak they are on*" – but others too cannot be discounted, including unpredictable France.

The latter will be first up to take on the Grand Slam holders at Twickenham on Saturday, with second favourites Ireland facing the steadily-rebuilding Scots later at Murrayfield – giving early shape to the tournament, which will have been duly noted before Wales take to the field next day.

It could well provide just the incentive they need to launch their 2017 Six Nations challenge in style, with a convincing victory over the Azzurri – and prove Mr Mallett et al wrong!

Cowbridge Town continue their good run with victory

COWBRIDGE TOWN first team continued their rich vein of form last Saturday with another win, this time away to Island Marine in the Vale of Glamorgan Premier League.

The Town came away with a very hard-fought 2-1 victory, thanks to a superb team effort.

The Town travelled to Maslin Park with a number of players absent, either through injury or other commitments.

However, one of the significant changes this season from last is the size and depth of quality in the squad.

With several changes, the Cowbridge team took to the pitch in the knowledge that a victory would move them up the league table.

A very tense first half saw the home team have the majority of the play, with very few chances created at either end.

The condition of the pitch proved a major influence in the quality of the football, but both sides persisted and tried to play as well as they could.

In the 35th minute Island Marine's patience paid off and after some good build-up play they went 1-0 up with a good shot into the left hand corner, beating the Cowbridge 'keeper Ricci Burton.

Despite the setback, Cowbridge kept their heads and made it to half-time 1-0 down.

Cowbridge started the second half with renewed vigour and created a chance early on that saw Luke Pinchbeck shoot narrowly wide of the goal.

But the confidence levels were up and the Town started to play better football, reflecting the quality that they have within the squad.

With captain for the day Tom Howells encouraging and cajoling from the back, Cowbridge started to carve openings, and in the 59th minute were rewarded for their persistence.

Sam Cooper chased what looked to be a hopeless cause and forced the Island Marine goalkeeper to slice the ball into touch.

Cooper was first to the ball in touch, took the throw in and found James Hartley in the box who, with a deft flick, found current top scorer Lloyd Lewis, who smashed the ball in under the despairing Island Marine 'keeper.

At 1-1 Cowbridge confidence levels soared, and they pressed for the winner.

After 71 minutes, the Island Marine 'keeper fumbled the ball and it fell at the feet of Luke De Gabrielle, who calmly switched it to his right foot, beating one player in the process and then curled it past the 'keeper into an empty net.

At this stage changes were made, with Pinchbeck coming off for Ryan Ashby to inject a little pace upfront, and then Hartley, who had worked extremely hard, was replaced by Tom Stirling, taking another step to recovery from a recent nasty ankle ligament injury.

The change in personnel seemed to work and Cowbridge were able to see off a late surge in Island Marine possession to take all three points and keep up the pressure on the top two sides in the league.

Cowbridge manager Andy Pinchbeck commented afterwards that his team had worked extremely hard to recover from a 1-0 deficit and that he was extremely proud of everyone of them.

He said: "This keeps us on target for a top two finish in the league."

The next game for the Town is at the Bear Pit against Dinas Powys this Saturday, kick off 2pm.

AP

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, January 24, a full programme of league matches was played.

Top of the table, Edmondes B, beat the Hairy Farmers 7-2.

There was again a change in second place, between the Highwayman Inn and the Six Bells Inn, when the Highwayman Inn beat the Edmondes A 6-3 while the Six Bells Inn lost 3-6 to the Edmondes C.

Llanharry joined the teams chasing fourth spot by beating the Red Lion 7-2.

The Victoria Inn is now equal on points with the Farmers Arms after defeating them 6-3. In this match, James Elliott (Victoria Inn) became the 10th player to join the over-100 outs club, hitting a 102 three-dart out.

Present league standings, after 15 weeks, are: Edmondes B (97 points), Highwayman Inn (84), Six Bells Inn (82), Edmondes A (72), Edmondes C and Llanharry (71), Hairy Farmers (62), Farmers Arms and Victoria Inn (61) and Red Lion (14).

Next week (Tuesday, February 7) we will have another full programme of league matches.

The Edmondes B hosts Llanharry, the Hairy Farmers hosts the Edmondes C, the Red Lion hosts the Edmondes A, the Six Bells Inn hosts the Victoria Inn and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Farmers Arms.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk

PJT

Llantwit RFC slip to Penygraig loss

PENYGRAIG were the visitors to the Recreation Ground as they took on Llantwit Major RFC in the league and held onto a first half lead to take the spoils in a 13-18 win.

Llantwit were once again slow out of the blocks and went down to a 15-point deficit after the visitors quickly crossed for two tries and succeeded with a penalty kick.

At this stage, Penygraig were showing why they have only lost twice in the league this season.

However Llantwit, to their credit, rolled up their sleeves and got stuck into the visitors with the rest of the half ground out between the 10-metre lines as neither pack would yield and both teams wrestled for dominance. A penalty kick slotted over by outside-half Dan Powell gave Llantwit some reward for their efforts.

The second half resumed as the first had ended with an arm wrestle in the middle of the park with both teams battering each other in the contact area for territory, the ferocity of the play certainly not being for the faint hearted.

The only scores came from an exchange of penalties, Llantwit's again from Powell, taking the score going into the final 20 minutes at 6-18.

This was when the hosts really upped the ante and threw everything at a defiant Penygraig defence with strong running from the Llantwit pack who had no doubt learned from last week's opponents and were now dominating all phases of the game with their own brand of 10-man rugby, with Geraint David and Rob Carter to the fore of these exchanges.

Several charges eventually broke Penygraig's resistance, with replacement forward Lee Burlingham cantering over for what was a well-deserved try, converted by Powell.

With the final whistle just minutes away you would have thought the game was over but this was a new-looking Llantwit Major who were still not giving up hope of stealing the win with a converted try.

On retrieving the ball, they set about once again breaking down the visitors, and on several attacks they nearly made it but so often just couldn't get that last pass to hand, and it must be said a rigid defence line by Penygraig who were now tackling as if their lives depended on it.

The referee sadly had the last say as he blew for the final whistle.

AH

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